

## Gunsman slay 6 Algerian FLN members

TUNIS (R) — Gunsman have shot dead six members of Algeria's legal opposition National Liberation Front (FLN) party, whose leader is under fire from the government for joining peace talks abroad with outlawed Islamists. The official Algerian news agency said on Saturday that the six men, aged between 43 and 61, were killed on Thursday in the village of Lahlef, Relizane province, some 255 kilometres southwest of Algiers. AFS quoted a security force statement which blamed the killings on "armed terrorists," the official term for anti-regime guerrillas. The FLN is among eight main opposition groups, including the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which signed a joint proposal in Rome on Friday aimed at ending their country's civil strife (see page 12).

## King, Saleh review Arab relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein telephoned Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday and discussed with him bilateral relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The King and Mr. Saleh discussed the need to end disputes among Arab countries and to unify the ranks of the Arab Nation to enable it to counter challenges facing it, the agency said.

## Palestinians, Saudis agree on pilgrims

JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian and Saudi officials have agreed to double the number of Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank who may make the pilgrimage to Mecca each year, a Palestinian official said on Saturday. "The Saudi authorities accepted our request to allow 15,000 Palestinian pilgrims to visit Mecca this year," said Nabil Shaath. This year's pilgrimage will be in early May. Hassan Tahhoni, the Palestinian official in charge of religious affairs, recently visited Saudi Arabia to discuss the matter. Dr. Shaath said the Saudis would offer logistical facilities to the Palestinian pilgrims and Egypt would allow them to use the El-Arish airport.

## Communists win Uzbek elections

TASHKENT (AFP) — Uzbekistan's communists won a crushing overall victory in the second round of general elections and will hold at least 231 of the new parliament's 250 seats, the daily People's Word said Saturday. The state-controlled daily said 243 seats have been allocated following the Dec. 25 and Jan. 8 elections. The remaining seven seats will be decided in a delayed poll on Jan. 22, because voter turnout fell short of the minimum 50 per cent in these constituencies. The electoral commission said 88.3 per cent of eligible voters took part in the second round against 93.6 per cent in the first round. The new parliament, or Olti Majlis, will comprise 250 deputies, half as many as the old Supreme Soviet. The communist People's Democratic Party (PPD), with its 231 seats, will face only token opposition from the Party of National Progress (PNP) which won 12 seats.

## Syria builds first quake centre

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria, located in an active earthquake area, on Saturday opened its first earthquake monitoring centre. The \$1.8 million project will provide data on seismic activities through 20 ground stations spread around Syria. The project is financed by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. Seven of the ground stations have already been built and the rest will be completed by the end of this year, officials said. The centre's chief, Hassan Ann Rounieh, told Reuters the facility, which began test operations in December, recorded a major earthquake in northeast Syria measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale on Dec. 18. No damages or injuries were caused.

## 14 rebels killed in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish forces have killed 14 Kurdish rebels and lost two of their own men in operations in the southeast of the country, the Anadolu news agency reported Saturday. Eight of the rebels, belonging to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), were killed in the Diyarbakir region, the others in the Hakkari and Mardin sectors, the agency said, quoting a statement from Diyarbakir prefecture. On Friday a Turkish police helicopter crashed for unknown reasons.

# S. Arabia said massing troops on Yemen border

SANAA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has massed forces near the border with Yemen, including warplanes and missile launchers, Arab diplomats here said Saturday. Meanwhile, a high-level Syrian delegation visiting Riyadh tried to mediate between the two neighbours whose forces have clashed on the disputed border several times since the May-July 1994 Yemeni civil war.

The Saudi military buildup, started earlier in the week, was focussed on the Saada and Mahara provinces on Yemen's northern border, said the diplomats, quoted by the French news agency AFP. In Riyadh, Arab diplomats also said the situation on the border was "very tense" Saturday. They said a Syrian delegation led by Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, which travelled to the Saudi kingdom after visiting Sanaa, was mediating "to defuse the tension."

One diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Saudi Arabia "is still sending troops, heavy weapons, including missile launchers and F-16 warplanes, close to Al Buq region in Saada province

and Mahara province to the west."

The sources did not give details of Yemen's military forces in the area.

Sanaa has deployed several units on the border in recent months as part of an army reorganisation.

Mr. Khaddam, accompanied by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, discussed the situation in the region Saturday with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz.

The Syrian officials Friday handed King Fahd a message from President Hafez Al Assad.

Earlier they gave Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh a similar message, which dealt with efforts to improve Arab relations and "restore solidarity," the official Yemeni news agency SABA said.

Mr. Saleh spoke to King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak by telephone Saturday, SABA reported. They discussed Arab relations, the Middle East peace process, and "efforts made to achieve inter-Arab reconciliation and greater Arab solidarity."

Officials from both countries said Friday a high-level Yemeni delegation would go ahead with a visit to Saudi Arabia called off earlier in the week after a clash on the border.

They said the visit, originally set for Wednesday, would instead take place Saturday.

Yemen's Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar was to lead the delegation, which would include Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani and Planning Minister Abdul Kader Bajamal.

The delegation is to meet King Fahd with the goal of paving the way for a trip to the kingdom by Mr. Saleh, according to officials in Sanaa.

But the plans were disrupted by the border incident on Tuesday.

The president and King Fahd discussed steps taken to contain the incident during a telephone conversation later the same day, according to SABA.

Officials in Sanaa said Saudi-armed Yemeni tribesmen occupied a border post in the northeast of the country and hoisted the Saudi flag.

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# Chechens hold onto palace in face of Russian assault

GROZNY (Agencies) — Chechen fighters doggedly held on to the presidential palace here late Saturday in the face of a fierce assault by Russian forces.

Russian television station NTV quoted its Grozny correspondent as saying the compound of the palace, symbol of the Chechens' drive for independence, had itself at one stage been the scene of clashes with Russian soldiers fighting Chechen fighters inside the building.

Chechen fighters said Russian forces had tried to surround the parliament building opposite the palace.

"The Russians briefly managed to take the building backed by armoured vehicles, but we retook control and we currently hold 25 Russian prisoners in the basement," said Hamzat Garmashvili, commander of a battalion of special Chechen forces.

He said clashes around the palace had largely tailed off Saturday evening, but were continuing elsewhere, notably around the central market square and the Cosmos cinema, some 300 metres away.

The commander added that the Russians still held no key building in Grozny.

Three Russian deputies from the reformist Democratic Choice party meanwhile denounced the Chechenya intervention as a "war crime without precedent," and de-

manded that those responsible be "severely punished," Interfax reported.

"Russian democracy is too weak to oppose the military," Mikhail Molosov said on returning from the region.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has made a major mistake in the conflict with Chechenya and is paying a hefty price, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said.

"I think they're suffering very considerably in world opinion. I believe that what they've done has set back their progress toward democracy," Mr. Christopher said in a CNN television interview.

Mr. Christopher is travelling to Geneva on Monday for a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and the crisis in Chechenya will top the agenda.

He said he would tell his Russian counterpart that the "indiscriminate killing of women and children, the excessive use of force are all things that are of great concern to the world community."

Mr. Christopher said he had spoken with Mr. Kozyrev by telephone earlier in the week and that he admitted that the violence in Chechenya was "an awful situation, a tragic situation — and he indicated he was looking for a way out."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has told President

Yeltsin he "understood" Russia's difficulties in restoring Moscow's rule in Chechenya during a sympathetic phone call, the Kremlin said.

"The chancellor declared his understanding of the situation's difficulties," Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

Mr. Kostikov accused NTV television of misrepresenting Friday's telephone conversation by saying Mr. Kohl had criticised Mr. Yeltsin's handling of the Chechen crisis.

"This does not correspond with reality," Mr. Kostikov said.

Confirming this view of events, the German weekly Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung said that in an interview to be published Sunday that Mr. Kohl gave Mr. Yeltsin his full support.

The U.S. administration has been more outspoken in its condemnation of the bloodshed in Chechenya over the last few days after having little to say in the opening days of the conflict late last year.

President Bill Clinton Friday issued the strongest objections to date concerning Chechenya when he spoke in Cleveland, Ohio.

While repeating his stance that is part of the Russian Federation and that he supported the territorial integrity

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## King, Mubarak discuss relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues to be discussed at an expected meeting between the two leaders on Feb. 1.

In a telephone conversation, King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak stressed the need to overcome disputes among Arab countries and to take unified stands on issues facing the Arab Nation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Mubarak is expected to visit Jordan on Feb. 1, his first trip to the Kingdom since ties were strained during the 1990 Gulf crisis, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Friday.

The trip was agreed a day earlier in talks between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Kabariti.

King Hussein has visited Cairo twice since the crisis. Jordan and Egypt also agreed on Saturday to hold a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee in the first half of March.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki agreed to convene the meet-

ing in a telephone contact made by Mr. Sedki to congratulate Sharif Zeid on assuming his post as prime minister.

The two discussed Jordanian-Egyptian relations and means of enhancing them, Petra said.

Congratulations

Sharif Zeid also received two cables from the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, and Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani congratulating him on forming his new government.

The Qatari Emir and Crown Prince wished Sharif Zeid luck in carrying out his duties.

They also wished the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of King Hussein.

Sharif Zeid also received a cable from Bangladesh Prime Minister Khafizur Zia congratulating him on forming his new government. Ms. Zia wished Sharif Zeid good luck and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity under the leadership of King Hussein.

## Jerusalem should not be a cause for disunity — Kabariti

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said Saturday that Jerusalem should not be a cause of controversy and disunity among Arab and Islamic countries. Such controversy and disunity would give Israel the pretext to interfere in the affairs of Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem and lead to incidents similar to what happened in the Ibrahim Mosque last year, Mr. Kabariti said.

In a statement on the eve of his departure for Morocco leading the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) due to open on Monday, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan would not relinquish the custodianship of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem to any non-Arab or non-Islamic party.

He said the issue of Jordan's custodianship of Islamic sites in the Holy City was not listed on the agenda of the committee's meetings, but might be discussed as an emergency issue.

The Jordanian government, he said, has held contacts with all the parties concerned with the Jerusalem question.

"I contacted the Palestinian brethren during my visit to Egypt and the contacts continued till last night," he said. "It was agreed in principle that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit Jordan on Jan. 25, but a definite date was not set for the visit," said Mr. Kabariti, adding that such a meeting should be preceded by meetings of the ministerial-level Jordanian-Palestinian technical committees on Jan. 23 and 24.

Before his departure, Mr. Kabariti briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to

Egypt on Thursday and his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials.

The foreign minister, who has described the outcome of his visit as extremely successful, announced that His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak will meet in Amman on Feb. 1.

He said his Cairo talks produced agreement on a joint position vis-a-vis the question of Jerusalem and Jordan's role in maintaining the holy shrines in the occupied city.

The cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, named the delegation accompanying Mr. Kabariti to the two-day OIC meeting. The delegation will include several ambassadors and officials.

The Council of Ministers, which was briefed by Sharif Zeid on the outcome of the talks held by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday, discussed several domestic issues.

Earlier Saturday, the director of the Foreign Ministry's information department, Ahmad Mbeideen, said Jordan supports any Arab or Islamic position aimed at safeguarding the Arab-Islamic custodianship of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

"Jordan's position vis-a-vis the status of Jerusalem does not contradict with other Arab concepts with regard to Palestinian political sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem," Mr. Mbeideen said.

"Jordan does not wish to have any differences with any other Arab or Islamic party

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# PNA demands settlement freeze

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority in self-rule Gaza on Saturday called for an immediate halt to the expansion of Jewish settlements in Gaza and the West Bank, authority members said.

Ahmad Qouriea, in charge of economics in the authority, said settlements were the top priority at the weekly cabinet meeting.

"This activity was at the top of our agenda today. It is illegal. It is an obstacle, it should be frozen completely. There should be no settlement activities until we reach the final status."

The agreement allowed some 4,000 settlers in Gaza and over 120,000 in the West Bank to remain in place under Israeli protection.

The issue was to be left for a later stage of negotiations but recent attempts to expand the settlements have angered Palestinians who

have demanded the controversial matter be addressed immediately.

Nabil Shaath, a senior authority member, said that at the final stage of the peace agreement all Israeli settlements should be removed from the Gaza Strip.

A leading member of the Hamas group on Saturday called on Palestinians to resist Jewish settlement in Gaza and the West Bank by sabotage as well as armed struggle.

Mahmoud Al Zahhar told a seminar at Gaza's Islamic University to close roads leading to settlements, cut electricity lines, ban Palestinian labourers from working in settlements and demonstrate at the entrances of settlements daily.

Former Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Sahit, an independent, speaking at the Gaza gathering, accused Israel of supporting the settlement activity.

"The Israeli government is supporting settlers' efforts to establish a Jewish state in the whole land of Palestine," he said.

Hamas bitterly opposes the PLO-Israeli deal and supports armed attacks on Israeli targets. Dr. Shaath rejected Dr. Zahhar's call for sabotage, telling reporters: "We have committed ourselves to peaceful methods of facing all our problems."

Also on Saturday, armed Jewish settlers clashed with Palestinians in the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinians and the Israeli army said.

Both sources said the settlers, led by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, provoked the clash by throwing stones at Palestinians in the town centre. An army spokeswoman said soldiers fired shots to disperse them.

Palestinians said one man was wounded by a rubber bullet and three by stones.

The army said it had no report of casualties.

Near Hebron, Palestinians threw stones at bulldozers paving a road for a Jewish settlement. At the West Bank village of Deir Qaddis, Palestinian farmers planted olive trees in a symbolic claim to a piece of land near the neighbouring Jewish settlement of Matityahu.

Israeli settlers on the West Bank said Saturday they now number more than 140,000, an increase of five per cent since the September 1993 autonomy deal with the Palestinians.

Israeli Radio said the settlers used local tax returns to establish their number 141,000 people.

The settlers had previously kept silent on the five per cent increase since the autonomy deal so as to prevent the government from taking colonisation as part of measures to advance the peace process.

# Palestinian Movement for Democracy takes shape

By Lamin K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

A GROUP of Palestinians, led by Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, is seeking to form a new movement that would help lead the Palestinian people out of the current political crisis which is largely the result of disillusionment with the limited self-rule agreement signed on Sept. 13, 1993.

The new movement does not present itself as an alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Rather it seeks to reunify Palestinian ranks around such crucial issues as rejection of any solution short of an independent Palestinian state and democratic Palestinian institutions.

A draft proposal presented by Dr. Abdul Shafi, the former head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, refers to a broad-based popular movement that aims at attaining peace on the basis of a two-state solution — Israel and a Palestinian state — and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

The proposal, which is being debated by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and the diaspora, calls for the formation of a "movement for building democracy in the Palestinian community." It contains no reference at all to the Oslo self-rule agreements, but considers the Palestinian initiative of 1988 that called

for a two-state solution as the basis for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem.

According to Palestinian sources, membership in the new Movement for Democracy is open to individuals from all political trends and is not based on a coalition among the existing Palestinian factions.

Advocates of the new movement present it as the third alternative, the first being to the political line represented by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the second by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

But undermining Hamas is not one of the movement's aims, and members of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority can in principle join the movement if



Haidar Abdul Shafi  
they accept and adhere to its declared objectives.  
"Many Palestinians do

not support the PNA although they are either secular or believe in a negotiated settlement with Israel based on the implementation of United Nations resolutions," explained one Palestinian source.

Dr. Abdul Shafi decided to initiate the movement after contacts he made with many Palestinian personalities and groups during a visit to Amman last month.

The widely respected leader then formulated a three-page draft proposal that was sent out to many Palestinians in the occupied territories and abroad on Jan. 5.

A reading of the draft proposal indicates that it is still a very general broad-line document that does

not take a clear position on the PNA and the Oslo agreement. It also falls short of outlining a strategy or plan of action for the Palestinians to pursue from now on.

During his short visit to Amman, Dr. Abdul Shafi told the Jordan Times he believed that specific goals and a strategy could only be formulated after wide consultations.

He said that his contacts and discussions had revealed wide differences on the shape and the goals of the movement. While some are seeking a clear-cut opposition that calls for the removal of the self-rule authority, others are seeking a democratic mass movement whose goals develop gradually.

The draft formulated by Dr. Abdul Shafi does not exclude any option regarding the direction that the movement could take.

Thus it could prove to be an alternative to the current leadership, represented by the Palestinian Authority, or it could represent a broad-based opposition movement.

The call for a new movement was a direct result of the lack of progress on negotiations to implement the second phase of the self-rule agreement involving a redeployment of Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Palestinian elections.

Palestinian anger over the expansion of Israeli set-

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## Delegation from U.N. Gulf crisis compensation committee arrives

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing a U.N. committee handling compensation applications from direct and indirect victims of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait arrived here today (Sunday) to discuss the status of claims from Jordanians to the panel.

The delegation, headed by Michael Rahoin, assistant secretary-general of the commission, visits Jordan in response to an invitation by the government of Jordan and will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials and others dealing with the applications for compensation.

The main problem impeding the completion of the committee's work is the lack of funds. The committee's work is limited to evaluating applications and forwarding its findings and recommendations to a governing council, which has the final say in approving and releasing payments from a special U.N. fund set up after the Gulf war.

Figures have varied between \$28 million and \$40 million as the amount available to the fund after several governments transferred part or full value of Iraqi funds held with them as called for by the U.N. Security Council.

Thirty per cent of proceeds from all Iraqi oil exports will be transferred to the fund as and when Iraq resumes its oil sales after the international sanctions on that country are lifted/eased.

The total amount of compensation sought by individuals, companies and gov-

ernments which suffered direct or indirect losses as a result of the invasion of Kuwait and the ensuing crisis runs to tens of billions of dollars.

Yahya Utaibi, secretary-general of the Amman-based Returnees Compensation Committee which handles Jordanian applications to the fund, said 110,000 claims were filed by Jordanians under the various categories as stipulated by the Geneva-based committee on the basis of death and injuries, personal losses, loss of property, loss of contracts etc.

The minimum amount of compensation payable to an approved claim is \$2,500.

The compensation committee paid \$982,000 in mid-1994 to 241 Jordanian applicants whose claims were based on death and injuries under category "B".

According to a copy of the recommendations and decisions of the committee made available to the Jordan Times, the panel studied 503 claims from Jordan in the first phase of its considerations. The committee said 232 of the claims were not eligible for payments, transferred six to other categories and classified 24 claims as "miscellaneous claims."

Two hundred and eighteen Jordanian claims studied were related to death and 285 to serious personal injury.

Category "B" applications filed from Jordan totalled nearly 700, but officials said that some of them did not qualify to be in that category.

In its mid-1994 recommendations and decisions, the committee studied a total of 1,119 claims and recom-

mended \$2,747,500 in payment.

The highest number of successful claimants were from Kuwait (303), and they were paid \$1,397,500. Jordan came second (241 claims — \$982,000), followed by the United Kingdom (39 claims — \$107,500), Sri Lanka (34 claims — \$110,000), France (21 claims — \$52,500), the U.S. (11 claims — \$35,000), Pakistan (seven claims — \$22,500), Poland and Thailand (four claims each: \$10,000), China (two claims — \$5,000), and Australia, the Slovak Republic, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (one claim each — \$2,500).

Mr. Utaibi said Saturday it was not known when the commission would study the rest of the cases and when claimants could expect payment or a ruling on their applications.

"We are closely following up with the committee, and we are sure that all claims will be studied and payments will be made at some point," said Mr. Utaibi. "But we don't know when the work would be finished and when the governing council would make a decision."

The Security Council resolution ordering compensation for Gulf crisis victims "is not negotiable," and, as such, the claims will have to be settled sooner or later, he noted.

According to Mr. Utaibi, the very fact that the Jordanian government had invited the delegation arriving here today was a strong indication of Jordan's determination to press the case of its claimants.

Mr. Utaibi told Reuters the team will hold talks with top government officials on technical aspects related to Jordan's total claims of \$8 billion submitted before a U.N. deadline for submission of individual and governmental applications at the end of 1994.

Over \$4 billion of Jordan's \$8 billion compensation claims are filed by individuals for personal losses and Jordanians who owned enterprises in Kuwait, he said.

The Jordanian government claims an estimated \$4 billion in national losses from the influx of its citizens who strained its economy and infrastructure.

Jordan was also expected to seek compensation from the U.N. for the losses it incurred as a result of higher freight costs and shipping charges brought about by the four-year enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq by U.S.-led warships in the Red Sea. The Kingdom is also expected to demand compensation for fees it is paying to the Lloyd's Register, which maintains a presence at Aqaba to observe all incoming and outgoing cargo.

The delegation will hold talks with the ministers of interior, foreign affairs and labour. The minister of labour is also president of the Returnees Compensation Committee.

The discussions would be technical in nature, and a local report said the committee in Geneva was having some problems with computer diskettes provided by the Jordanian panel containing the details of applicants and claims.

## Egypt's militants make comeback in New Year

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Muslim militants, hit hard last year by arrests and executions, have made a vigorous revival in the New Year, belying the government's repeated boast that it has broken the back of the movement.

Guns were thought to be militants struck another blow at the tourist industry on Thursday evening when they opened fire on a train from the southern resort town of Luxor, wounding two Argentine tourists and four Egyptians. It was the first attack on a tourist train since March last year.

And on Jan. 2, in four operations which showed unusual bravado and coordination, militants disguised as police dragged policemen off buses and summarily executed them in public.

The militant Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), the main organisation trying to overthrow the government, ended three months of silence to claim responsibility for the killings.

A Gamaa statement restated its aims as "confronting the regime... and defending religion and liberties until our people in Egypt enjoy the freedom they want under Islam."

In the first 12 days of the year, 29 people have been killed in political violence, compared with an average of about for a week since the Gamaa began attacking in March 1992.

A new element is the frequency with which the militants kill civilians they suspect are police informers — at least three of these have been gunned down in the past week.

The conflict has now spread along most of the Nile valley between Minya province to the north and Gena province to the south — a stretch of about 350 kilometres.

An outpost near Cairo came to light Jan. 8 when police shot dead five suspected militants in a satellite town.

But the undisputed centre is the area around the town of Mallawi, where a permanent night curfew is in force and people think twice before stepping abroad even in broad daylight.

Heavily armed police units go out on search-and-destroy missions through the sugarcane fields where the militants hide and rarely take prisoners if the militants open fire at them.

The militants train in the desert beyond the narrow strip of irrigated land, ambush and kill sole policemen, steal their weapons and usually escape back to their hideouts.

Most embassies advise their citizens to confine their visits to southern Egypt to the town of Luxor and Aswan, so far immune from the sporadic attacks on tourists.

Official statistics suggest that the decline in the tourist industry has now levelled off and there is anecdotal evidence that violence at the current level has lost its novelty value and some of its effect as a deterrent to tourism.

In the first 11 months of last year 2,381 million people visited Egypt, compared with 2,335 million in the same period of the previous year. But tourist revenue in the first 10 months fell to \$1.213

billion, from \$1.229 billion between January and Oct. 1993, the prime minister's office said.

The revenue is at least \$1 billion less than the country could earn from tourism if it was at peace, economists say.

The government continues to reject any political solution to end what it calls terrorism but in recent months it has put less emphasis on alleged foreign aid for the Gamaa and more on the domestic roots of the thinking behind violent fundamentalism.

"The terrorists have their roots at the bottom of society," Education Minister Hussein Baheuddin, a vigorous campaigner, told a seminar of intellectuals in December. "We have managed to check the spread of terrorism and throw off the cloak of Islam beneath which they (the militants) have tried to hide... but we are chipping at the tip of the iceberg, most of which is hidden under the water," he added.

Muslim fundamentalists, some of them sympathetic to acts of violence, are widespread in Egypt society. They include many teachers, lawyers, doctors and other influential professionals.

The government's response, often echoed by pillars of the clerical establishment, has been to try to project a different vision of what it says is true Islam — flexible, tolerant, progressive and cosmopolitan.

But it is one man's word against another and does not wash among the angry young men who see Islam as a radical panacea for ills such as corruption, hypocrisy, poverty and slights to national and Islamic pride.

The government has also failed to strike up an effective alliance with natural friends such as liberals, leftists and democrats, many of whom say the authorities have made too many concessions to the hardline Islamic establishment.

### 5 killed

Crack security forces shot dead four Islamic militants during a raid on their hideout in the troubled Minya region of southern Egypt Saturday while another group of militants killed a police officer, authorities said.

Special Interior Ministry police first surrounded a Coptic Christian cemetery in Bani Mazar, around 180 kilometres south of Cairo, where militants of Gamaa were hiding.

Four militants fled and police gave chase, killing three of them in a gunbattle in the streets. A 65-year-old man was also shot and wounded in the clash.

The fourth militant was shot dead later in another part of the town, police said. Nine bombs and three pistols were found, along with documents linking the militants to the Gamaa.

One of the dead was identified as a 22-year-old student from the University of Minya.

Islamic militants meanwhile shot dead a 45-year-old policeman, Farhadi Mehanni Mehanni, in front of his family in the village of Qaliba near the militant stronghold of Mallawi, 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Western Sahara vote set for October

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council said Friday that it would no longer delay a Western Sahara vote on self-determination and would hold it in October with a transition period beginning on June 1. The referendum has been delayed several times because of difficulties in identifying eligible voters in the Western Sahara, where Morocco and the Polisario Front have been battling for control of the territory. The area was a Spanish colony until 1975. Western diplomats have said that the Western Sahara issue could move forward this year since it is in the interests of both sides to hold the referendum. If Polisario loses, a statute granting autonomy could still be negotiated later, they said. The 15-member council also voted to extend until May 31 the mandate of the 334-member mission in the Western Sahara. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has recommended that 105 police and at least 51 officials be added to the mission. Observers from the Organisation of African Unity are expected to help the process of identifying eligible voters.

### Lebanese police seize liberal books

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police have confiscated three books by the late liberal Islamist writer Al Sadeq Al Naheym because Muslim authorities considered them harmful to Islam, a police spokeswoman said on Saturday. The books were seized on Friday at the request of the office of Lebanon's Sunni Muslim mufti Mohammad Rashid Kabbani, under a law allowing heads of Lebanon's religious groups to order confiscation of books they consider offensive to their beliefs. The three books, which have been on sale throughout the Arab World for several years, are "Voice of the People, Drama of a falsified Culture," "Islam imprisoned" and "Islam Against Islam," which broke sales records last month at an annual Arab book fair at the Information Ministry in Beirut. Mr. Naheym's writings call for reconsideration of traditional Islamic theories in the light of modern intellectual developments and adapting Islam to the needs of the 21st century. Mr. Naheym, who was of Libyan origin, died two months ago in Geneva. His publishers said his books have never previously been confiscated in the Arab World and are currently on sale at the Cairo international book fair.

### Moroccan satirist says his plays banned

RABAT (R) — One of Morocco's best known entertainers said on Friday the authorities have banned him from showing his satirical plays in the country without giving a reason. "The authorities have decided to ban my pieces in all the cities of the kingdom and withhold permission for the staging of my plays," Ahmad Senoussi, who is known as Baziz, told Reuters. The popular actor recently said the authorities had banned the showing of his play "The Vase and the Suitcase" in the towns of Fez and Marrakesh. He says the play has now been banned in Casablanca. The play mocked the government's human rights record and control of the arts and media. Mr. Senoussi is also a human rights activist. "By banning my plays, they are depriving the Moroccan people of the right to laughter and enjoyment. I think this is very serious because it means we no longer have the right to be satirical in this country," Mr. Senoussi said. An official at the Ministry of Human Rights said the case but unfortunately it is up to the regional police authorities to decide on such matters. The official said Mr. Senoussi has been banned from appearing on Moroccan television for years.

### Iran cleric says satellite ban certain

TEHRAN (R) — A member of a powerful Islamic clerical council that reviews laws passed by Iran's parliament said on Friday the council had backed a parliament bill to outlaw satellite dishes, leaving only a funding hitch to be solved. "Parliament took the justified step to ban the use of satellite dishes, and the Guardian Council has approved the bill," said a spokesman for the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The bill would force owners of satellite dishes to turn in their equipment, after the bill receives final approval from the Guardian Council or face fines of up to three million rials (\$1000 at the open market exchange rate).

### Israel Military Industries head quits

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Military Industries (IMI) Director-General Gadi Komissar has resigned from his post after four years over differences with the board of directors on restructuring IMI, his spokesman said on Friday. Israel Radio said Mr. Komissar was opposed to restructuring IMI, converted from an arm of the Defense Ministry into a state company in 1990, into a holding company with subsidiaries. "The directors want subsidiaries. He wanted divisions. That was not accepted," said spokesman Avihai Ben-Yaacov. News of the resignation came on Friday evening, and government officials were not immediately available to comment. The radio said Mr. Komissar warned restructuring plans now afoot would not contribute to and could damage IMI. Mr. Komissar declined to elaborate further on the resignation. International Company said recently. "The resignation was made on Friday afternoon," said IMI, hard hit by post-cold war defence cuts, dropping its work force to 5,620 in 1993 from 7,228 in 1992, compared with 11,150 employed in 1990. Last summer there were reports it would lay off 1,200 of its work force because of a drop in sales.

## Palestinians satisfied with talks on Mideast bank

WASHINGTON (USA) — A Palestinian participant expressed his delegation's satisfaction on Tuesday with the results of the just-concluded talks here on establishing a Middle East Development Bank, one of the noteworthy recommendations of the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit held in Casablanca last October.

Hassan Abdul Rahman, chief representative for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington and a member of the Palestine Authority's delegation to the talks, said the proposed bank "will facilitate in the future the financing of national and regional infrastructures and thereby firmly establish the (Mideast) peace process."

Mr. Abdul Rahman spoke as delegates from the 39 participating countries and international organisations were heading home after agreeing on the formation of a task force to come up with "detailed proposals" for the proposed bank.

The task force will be considering such matters as the bank's "mandate, membership, eligibility for borrowing, relationship to other institutions, operational functions, capital requirements, governance, and interim arrangements," according to a three-page statement spelling out the "summary conclusions" presented by U.S. Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan E. Spero, who co-chaired the two-day meeting at the State Department here.

The PLO joined Egypt, Israel and Jordan in producing "a paper outlining their vision" of the bank and "a number of regional and non-regional delegations" supported the proposal, the statement said.

Ms. Spero explained at the briefing: "I am not pretending to say that there has been a decision to sign on the dotted line for a bank. But I would say that the difference of opinion narrowed quite significantly. This was in reference to

some Arab, reportedly Saudi Arabian, reluctance to endorse the bank outright, although Spero emphasised that "all parties were open to consideration of a bank."

She went on to cite two reasons for this turnaround: "One is, and I think most overwhelmingly important, the statement and the position of the four countries (PLO, Israel, Egypt and Jordan). Not only did they present a common paper, not only did they present a common view, but they forcefully argued and jointly argued and jointly negotiated — to the extent there was a negotiation — their position. They argued very strongly to say, 'You told us to get together. You told us to develop as an economic region. You told us you wanted these things. Now we are coming to you and telling you what our proposal is, and we ask you to respond.'"

The second reason, she added, is that several of the participants in the Casablanca conference have examined "the sort of options and the needs" after their meeting in Morocco and many concluded that "if what you want is new funding that you want is new funding capacity, promotion of regional development, the existing mechanisms don't get you there..."

The task force will be meeting monthly, beginning March 5 in Washington, to come up with the proposals for endorsement by the second economic summit conference scheduled to be held in Jordan in October.

Another complementary proposal to be looked into by the task force is "a forum for regional cooperation" which came primarily from some European countries although Ms. Spero added, they "remain very open to examination and consideration of the idea."

Nevertheless, she continued, the bank remains "a very strong option" because the idea emanates from the region.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded the north in reaction to a coup in Nicosia by advocates of union with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots date the problem to 1963 when a joint republic formed in 1960 under Turkish, Greek and British guarantees collapsed in intercommunal violence.

The veteran politician who has declared he would not run for a third five-year term when his tenure at the presidency runs out in April, said he would take his final decision by the end of this month.

## Denktash to give his view on peace to U.S. envoy

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said on Friday he was anticipating talks with President Bill Clinton's special emissary, expected to visit the divided island this month.

Mr. Denktaş at the same time gave a warning of a Greek-Turkey war if Greek Cypriots went into the European Union (EU) before a resolution of the problem that has divided Cyprus since 1974.

If Greek Cypriots integrated with the EU Turkish Cypriots would do the same with Turkey, Mr. Denktaş told Reuters.

"The encouraged Greek side... will react violently and may attack us. This will drag Turkey as a matter of honour and obligation... into an armed conflict which may eventually bring the involvement of Greece, hence a Greco-Turkish war."

New York attorney Richard Beattie is expected in Cyprus on Jan. 22 as Mr. Clinton's special envoy.

"I myself welcome the arrival of President Clinton's special emissary who is projected as one of the best legal brains in the United States," said Mr. Denktaş.

"If Mr. Beattie is coming

with an open heart and open mind... I hope he will report to the president that 31 years have been missed by this great power (USA) and great injustice and discrimination has been done to Turkish Cypriots."

"So far American involvement, because of the Greek lobby and the noise it makes in the USA has encouraged Greek Cypriots to intransigence and has not been helpful," Mr. Denktaş said.

Mr. Denktaş leads a breakaway republic in the north, declared unilaterally in 1983 and recognised by Ankara alone.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00... Coonies Minutes  
17:30... Que Le Mielheur Cagne  
18:00... Montagne  
18:30... Le Monde Fantastique Des Enants  
19:00... News In French  
19:15... Ushuan  
19:30... Galactica  
20:15... The Album Show  
21:00... The Nanny  
21:30... Heartbeat  
22:00... News In English  
22:30... Feature film: "Turner and Hooch"  
23:59... The Hidden Room

### PRAYER TIMES

05:10... Fajr  
06:32... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:04... Dhahar  
14:23... 'Asr  
16:27... Maghrib  
18:18... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel: 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel: 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590,  
Church of the Assumption Tel: 637440,  
De la Saie Church Tel: 661157  
Ternassia Church Tel: 622366  
Church of the Assumption Tel: 623541  
Anglican Church Tel: 630851, Tel: 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 711331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 752561  
St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel: 652526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Community Tel: 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel: 675991  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise further with winds southeasterly light breeze, in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Min./Max. temp  
Amman... 7/18

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Agaba... 10-25  
Desert... 3-20  
Jordan Valley... 10-24  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 16, Agaba 25 Humidity readings: Amman 59 per cent, Agaba 47 per cent.

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Fakhri Taweh... 958800  
Dr. Nidal Al Dabeh... 271495  
Dr. Salim Al Oubouh... 76751  
Dr. Basam Karadseh... 779220  
First pharmacy... 691912  
Ferdous pharmacy... 78339  
Al Asma pharmacy... 637055  
Nainouk pharmacy... 656772  
Al Salan pharmacy... 656750  
Yacoub pharmacy... 645945  
Smeisam pharmacy... 677940  
Nainouk pharmacy... 623472  
Najih pharmacy... 347672  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu... (—)  
Alquds pharmacy... (—)

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 637111  
Civil Defence Department... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency... 630341  
Rescue Police... 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade... 75101  
Blood Bank... 641714  
Highway Police... 843402  
Traffic Police... 896390  
Police Security Department... 640221  
Hot Complaints... 661580  
Police Complaints... 661176  
Water and Sewerage... 897467  
Complaints... 787111  
Telephone Information... 121  
Directorate of assistance... 01230  
Overseas Calls... 621101  
Central Amman Telephone... 661101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs... 661101  
Jordan Television... 771111  
Radio Jordan... 774111  
Water Authority... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority... 815613

### HOSPITALS

ANDMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre... 813813/32  
Najdi Maternity, J. Ann... 642516  
Jabal Amman Maternity... 642562  
Malinas, J. Annam... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsia... 661714  
Shamsia Hospital... 669151  
University Hospital... 845845  
Al-Musharraf Hospital... 667270  
The Islamic, Abdal... 661212/7  
Al-Nah, Abdal... 661646  
Italian, Al-Mulajir... 777015  
Army, Marka... 591611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital... 60243030  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital... 09/68353  
Zarqa National Hospital... 77211  
Ibn Sina Hospital... 09/800560  
Al-Hind Medical Hospital... 09/86732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basmah Hospital... 02/77535

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:35... Bangkok (RJ)  
07:45... Agaba (RJ)  
08:35... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:00... Damascus (RJ)  
09:05... Larnaca (RJ)  
09:25... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:15... Beirut (RJ)  
10:15... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:15... Agaba (Add) (RJ)  
17:00... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:20... Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
17:55... London (RJ)  
18:10... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
18:45... Athens (RJ)  
19:35... Vienna (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:35... Manama (GF)  
14:25... Moscow (SU)  
20:05... Cairo (MS)  
20:20... Beirut (ME)  
22:55... Istanbul (TK)  
01:10... Amsterdam (KL)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:30... Agaba (RJ)  
06:45... Beirut (RJ)  
09:15... Vienna (RJ)  
10:00... Rome (RJ)  
11:15... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:20... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
11:50... Athens (RJ)  
20:00... Dhahran (RJ)  
20:30... Jeddah (RJ)  
20:45... New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00... Damascus (RJ)  
21:25... Cairo (RJ)  
21:30... Dhahran (RJ)  
21:40... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30... Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)  
22:45... Bangkok (RJ)  
22:45... Sanaa (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:35... Manama (GF)  
14:25... Moscow (SU)  
20:05... Cairo (MS)  
20:20... Beirut (ME)  
22:55... Istanbul (TK)  
01:10... Amsterdam (KL)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$/kg  
Apple... 700-800  
Banana... 200-300  
Banana (Mukhammar)... 200-300  
Cabbage... 200-300  
Carrot... 200-300  
Cauliflower... 200-300  
Cucumbers (large)... 100-150  
Cucumbers (small)... 100-150  
Garlic... 200-300  
Grape Fruit... 200-300  
Lemon... 200-300  
Marrow (large)... 100-150  
Marrow (small)... 100-150  
Onion (green)... 200-300  
Onion (dry)... 200-300  
Orange... 200-300  
Pepper (hot)... 200-300  
Pepper (sweet)... 200-300  
Potato... 200-300  
Radish... 200-300  
Spinach... 200-300  
Spring Beans... 200-300  
Tomato... 200-300

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:35... Manama (GF)  
14:25... Moscow (SU)  
20:05... Cairo (MS)  
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Cucumbers (large)... 100-150  
Cucumbers (small)... 100-150  
Garlic... 200-300  
Grape Fruit... 200-300  
Lemon... 200-300  
Marrow (large)... 100-150  
Marrow (small)... 100-150  
Onion (green)... 2



## BRIEF

### set for October

The U.N. Security Council will hold a meeting on June 1 in October because of the Western Sahara. The meeting will be held in the Western Sahara, which is a Spanish colony. The meeting will be held in the Western Sahara, which is a Spanish colony. The meeting will be held in the Western Sahara, which is a Spanish colony.

### ze Liberal book

Three have confiscated the book, which is a collection of poems by the late poet, Al-Sayid. The book is a collection of poems by the late poet, Al-Sayid. The book is a collection of poems by the late poet, Al-Sayid.

### his plays banned

His plays have been banned from the Jordanian market. The plays are considered to be subversive and are therefore banned. The plays are considered to be subversive and are therefore banned.

### lite ban certain

There is a certain ban on the sale of certain goods. The ban is intended to protect the local market and is therefore necessary. The ban is intended to protect the local market and is therefore necessary.

### lies head quilts

The head quilts are made of a special material. They are used to protect the head and are therefore very important. The head quilts are made of a special material. They are used to protect the head and are therefore very important.

### MARKET PRICES

The market prices are as follows: Wheat, 1000; Rice, 1200; Oil, 1500. The market prices are as follows: Wheat, 1000; Rice, 1200; Oil, 1500.



**MEETING UNIVERSITY STAFF:** Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday receives a group of Yarmouk University staff who called at the prime ministry to congratulate him on forming his new government. Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker told the group that the government was determined to support Jordanian universities' efforts towards achieving excellence and in graduating highly qualified students.

Stressing the importance of quality, Sharif Zeid said that Jordanian universities should serve as centres of enlightenment, which enjoy freedom of expression and free and open dialogue and as centres for scientific research benefiting the entire country. Speakers for the group wished the new government success in its mission (Petra photo)

## Road construction, repairs to start earlier — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — In response to Cabinet directives, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing will start floating tenders for the construction and repair of agricultural roads in the governorates, which is nearly two months ahead of the schedule followed in previous years, according to Mohammad Ensour, director of the ministry's Roads Department Saturday.

Mr. Ensour said that the ministry has a budget allocation of JD 63.995 million for roads during 1995; treasury will fund JD 42 million and the rest will be funded through loans.

Of the total budget item, JD 23 million has been allocated for agricultural roads in various regions, added Mr. Ensour.

During 1995, the ministry will start several projects including the construction of the 72-kilometre Ras Naqab-Aqaba Road which is expected to cost JD 40 million, the 36-kilometre Karak-Qatameh Road which will cost JD 26 million, the 14.5-kilometre road linking Madaba with Um Al Amad which will cost JD 9 million and the 15-kilometre North Shuneh Road at the cost of JD 10 million.

During 1995, Mr. Ensour added, the ministry will also complete the 31.5-kilometre Zaza-Ghor Haditha Road in the Jordan Valley which is expected to cost JD 20 million, the eight kilometre Irbid-North Shuneh Road at JD 8 million and the 30-kilometre Arda-Jordan Valley Road at about JD 4.5 million. Work on these roads began in previous years, he said.



The road between Salt and the Jordan Valley (File photo)

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Friday issued directives to government departments and ministries urging them to implement projects as early as possible during the fiscal year to avoid requiring any re-allocation of funds.

## 4 House committees elect new chairmen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament finance, foreign affairs, agriculture and education committees Saturday elected new chairmen to replace those who were appointed ministers to the newly-formed Cabinet of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The Finance Committee will play the role of watchdog over the various government department's expenditures and will ensure that these departments follow the general terms and provisions of the 1995 fiscal budget, said new chairman Hashem Dabbas who replaced Ali Abul Ragheb, now minister of industry and trade.

Dr. Dabbas said his committee would support and help the Audit Bureau in its drive to maintain control over department's financial activities and would actively help in the process of economic reform.

Meanwhile, the newly-



Abdullah Ensour



Hashem Dabbas

elected chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Abdullah Ensour, said in a statement Saturday that the committee would focus on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territories on Feb. 10. Dr. Ensour said his committee would maintain contacts with

envoys of various embassies in Jordan and with the European Union (EU) delegation here to discuss regional economic development matters. The new committee chairman, who was elected to succeed Abdul Karim Kabariti, now foreign minister, said that Israel's withdrawal from

Jordanian territories will take place in coordination between the two sides without the presence of any international observers, noting that Israel and Jordan have decided that they will not have demilitarised zones separating the two countries.

The House Agriculture Committee elected Ali Sbati as its chairman to succeed Nader Thuheirat who became minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment.

The House Education Committee elected Abdul Majid Al Aqtash as chairman to succeed Awad Khleifat who became minister of youth.

It was also announced Saturday that the Lower House will convene Sunday afternoon to hear government replies to queries raised by deputies and to refer several draft laws to specialised committees for study.

## Jordanian, Palestinian commerce groups sign protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Chambers of Commerce of Amman and Nablus Saturday signed a protocol to promote trade and investments in Jordan and Palestine.

The protocol provides for facilitating the missions of the business community from either side and encouraging them to launch joint investment projects.

Muath Nabulsi, president of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce told Jordan Television that Nablus continues to provide Jordan with vegetable oil, soap, stone for building, and vegetables and fruits.

Expressing satisfaction with the protocol Mr. Nabulsi said that it opens the way for direct exchange of information on joint investments in the two countries and potential cooperation in economic affairs, noting that the protocol signed Saturday complements the one signed two weeks ago between the counterpart federations of chambers of commerce.

Haider Murad, president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, signed the protocol with Mr. Nabulsi.

The protocol will definitely back the private sectors on both sides, said Mr. Murad who also expressed hope that Jordan and Palestine will soon finalise and conclude the overall Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement.



Minister of Administrative Development Mohieddin Toq Saturday discusses bilateral cooperation in public administration spheres with visiting Yemeni Minister of Administrative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras (Petra photo)

## Yemen, Jordan explore cooperation in public administration area

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Administrative Reform Sadeq Abu Ras Saturday opened official talks with Minister of Administrative Development Mohieddin Toq on bilateral cooperation.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Abu Ras said the two sides discussed exchanging expertise and training in public administration.

The Yemeni minister was briefed on Jordan's experiences in the field of civil

service and administrative reforms as well as legislation aimed at upgrading public administration in Jordan.

The two sides discussed prospects of Yemen benefiting from Jordanian experiences in training Yemeni personnel at the University of Jordan and other institutions.

Mr. Abu Ras briefed Dr. Toq on Yemen's endeavours to upgrade its public administration system.

The Yemeni minister said that Jordan and Yemen maintain very strong ties, and

be hoped that they would continue to coordinate on all matters.

He also voiced appreciation of Jordan's support for Yemen's unity.

In his statement upon arrival here Friday Mr. Abu Ras said that his country was currently discussing with Jordan an appropriate date for convening a meeting of the higher Jordanian-Yemeni joint committee to discuss further steps to advance bilateral ties.

## Iraq says 5,000 dead

(Continued from page 12)

The Financial Times quoted a spokesman for the delegation, Edmund Sykes, as saying the companies involved were aware they might be playing into the hands of Iraq.

Some British firms are concerned that they are losing trade to rivals from other countries whose governments may be less strict about enforcing the United Nations embargo. France is actively campaigning for the trade ban to be relaxed.

## Algiers cool to opposition call

(Continued from page 12)

early on Saturday by Algerian security forces in Algiers.

But ANSA, which said it had learned of the arrest from the Algerian correspondent of Spain's EFE news agency, said it did not know the motive for the detention or the whereabouts of Mr. Zaaf and his children.

Meanwhile, the World Bank announced a \$150 million economic rehabilitation loan for Algeria to provide urgent assistance for economic reforms and help meet the population's basic needs. The loan has a 17-year term with a five-year grace period.

The money was aimed at speeding up the economic transition toward a market economy and developing a private sector in Algeria, the bank said in a statement. Algeria endured a stagnant economy while its population grew 2.5 per cent in the last year.



DISCUSSING EDUCATIONAL TIES: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Saturday meets with Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Hassan Adany. Discussion at the meeting focused on means of enhancing Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation, especially in educational and cultural fields (Petra photo)

## Environmental action week to start in Aqaba today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Environment Society (JES), in cooperation with the German Friedrich Naumann Foundation, today begins a week of environmental programmes in Aqaba, according to the foundation's representative, Walter Rudel.

A total of 34 students and young environmentalists will receive a week's training in the techniques of solving and visualising environmental case-studies. Intensive knowledge on

some major global and national environmental events will be provided and related printed material will be distributed, said Mr. Rudel.

Additionally, together with the Aqaba branch of JES, an evening forum on Aqaba and the marine environment will be conducted, during which all environmental hazards in the port-city will be discussed and ways and means of approaching them will be suggested, he said. During the morning sessions, a comprehensive environmental exhibition will

be on display, and students from Aqaba schools will get guided tours and proper introductory information on global, regional and national environmental conditions, Mr. Rudel said.

Environmental action weeks are organised throughout the year in all major cities in order to increase knowledge and awareness in favour of environmental protection and well-being in Jordan, said the foundation representative.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

**SOUTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL**  
★ Film entitled "Taxi to Soweto" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition entitled "Phase II: Doors and Windows"

by Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh. Also showing an exhibition by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al Funun.

★ Exhibition of works by Hala Mahayni at the Petra International Hotel in Aqaba.

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Zakaria Barsakat at the Housing Bank Gallery.



## Big power envoys meet Bosnians after Sarajevo routes reopen

SARAJEVO (R) — Big power envoys met Bosnian Muslim leaders Saturday for talks on a peace settlement after the United Nations scored a major victory by forcing rival sides to reopen supply routes into the besieged capital.

U.N. relief spokesman Kris Janowski told Reuters the route between Serb-held suburbs of Ilidza and Lukavica opened first as scheduled at 0700 GMT for two hours.

"One civilian car passed from Ilidza to Lukavica at exactly 8 a.m. and 20 minutes later a convoy of three civilian cars passed in the other direction," said Mr. Janowski.

The government-controlled route linking the suburbs of Dobrinja and Butmir was still shut without official explanation one hour after it was due to open at 10 a.m.

Several cars and 15 trucks were waiting in the bitter cold for the route skirting the airport perimeter to reopen and Western observers present believed the delay was caused by "lack of clarification regarding permissible cargo in transit."

The warring sides failed to agree at a meeting Friday on what cargo could go through. "Yesterday's meeting was utterly strange because they didn't really agree on exactly what cargo could go through," said Mr. Janowski.

But for the moment the routes are open for sure for U.N. traffic and all agencies accredited to UNHCR, as well as local civilians.

The reopening of vital supply land routes follows two weeks of U.N. shuttle diplomacy to overcome a long list of objections raised by the rival parties which hampered a landmark ceasefire agreement signed on New Year's Eve.

The United Nations swept aside some of their objections and literally imposed an agreement to open the supply routes for two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon.

"We did not get a complete agreement but we effectively imposed one and the roads will be free for civilian and humanitarian traffic according to a strict interpretation," U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Herve Gormel said.

He said the routes could be used by vehicles of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and more than 100 aid agencies affiliated with UNHCR, as well as local pedestrians and motorists carrying personal belongings.

U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said the rivals themselves had struck a separate deal without U.N. help.

"We have anecdotal evidence of one and possibly two Bosnian commercial convoys which entered Sarajevo within the past few days from Kiseljak, with a Serb police escort."

Big power envoys, on a tour of former Yugoslavia this week in a bid to resuscitate Bosnia peace talks, met Bosnia's Muslim-led leaders, including President Alija Izetbegovic, his deputy Ejup Ganic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.

Officials from the "contact group," comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, had 10 hours of talks with Bosnian Serb leaders in nearby Pale Friday.

After meeting the envoys Thursday, Bosnian government leaders said that they were not prepared to be steamrollered into agreeing to changes in the peace plan to suit the Serbs.

But the contact group now depicts the plan as a starting point for further negotiations — an idea Bosnian Serbs are happy to go along with.

The main warring factions in Bosnia have signed a four-month ceasefire intended to provide breathing space for fresh negotiations to end nearly three years of war in Bosnia.

"The question now is whether this is the beginning of new negotiations and it remains to be seen," a contact group aide told Reuters in Pale.

A Bosnian Serb source said the main stumbling block was how to define the Serbs' approach to the peace plan drafted six months ago which they rejected at a referendum last August.

The Bosnian government appears opposed to further talks until the Serbs accept the original plan.

Under the plan, the Bosnian government and allied Bosnian Croats would control 51 per cent of the former Yugoslav Republic and the Serbs would have 49 per cent, meaning they would have to cede one-third of territory they now control.

U.N. officials said Friday that prospects of thrashing out an eventual peace settlement could be in jeopardy following Zagreb's decision to end the mandate of 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops in Croatia by March 31.

They fear the departure of the U.N. force could trigger renewed war in Croatia with rebel Serbs, involve the rump Yugoslav army and aggravate Bosnia's much bloodier conflict.

The United Nations officials said Friday they have already started preparations for the withdrawal of U.N. troops from Croatia, following the government's surprise decision to order them out.

"We have started making preliminary preparations," the U.N. spokesman in Zagreb, Michael Williams, told Reuters.

"We are working on the assumption that the (Croatian government's) decision is final. The assessment is that we will not have a job to do after March 31, and we cannot wait till then to do preparations."

President Franjo Tudjman formally notified U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Thursday that Croatia expects some 15,000 U.N. troops and personnel deployed in contested areas since 1992 to withdraw by the end of June.

The U.N. troops have largely been used to man demarcation lines between Croats and rebel Krajina Serbs who gained control of a third of Croatia during Zagreb's bloody seven-month fight for independence from federal Yugoslavia in 1991.

U.N. officials said Friday that prospects of thrashing out an eventual peace settlement could be in jeopardy following Zagreb's decision to end the mandate of 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops in Croatia by March 31.

They fear the departure of the U.N. force could trigger renewed war in Croatia with rebel Serbs, involve the rump Yugoslav army and aggravate Bosnia's much bloodier conflict.

The United Nations officials said Friday they have already started preparations for the withdrawal of U.N. troops from Croatia, following the government's surprise decision to order them out.

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Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (left), Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic (right) and British member of the contact group, William Ehrman (centre) step out from talks in Sarajevo. The group has been turning ex-

## Japan's Murayama offers to shake up socialist party after April polls

TOKYO (AFP) — Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama offered Saturday to shake up his Socialist Party after local elections in April, rejecting a hasty move by party rebels to create a new force in parliament.

"Though local elections, we will try to generate a tailwind toward creating a new party," Mr. Murayama said the day after his return home from a low-key summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"At the moment, I cannot exactly say when, but we should weigh the timing while watching the situation after local elections," he told a news conference during a day trip to the northern provincial city of Sapporo.

Sadao Yamahana, Mr. Murayama's predecessor as party chairman, announced Friday a list of 24 Socialist lawmakers, including himself, who will form a separate voting bloc in parliament with sympathisers from other parties.

The night-winger within the party insisted that the rebels were trying to set the framework for a new party to be joined by the rest of the Socialists later.

He also asked the party, formally called the Social Democratic Party (SDP), to retain them on its roster so that they could continue to receive party subsidies.

The premier himself has advocated the creation of a new Socialist-led party with liberals and academics to weather Japan's political turmoil caused by the emergence of two rival conservative blocs.

But Mr. Murayama said the SDP forms a solid voting bloc and cannot accept a separate force within itself. "We have to persuade them into taking joint action," he said.

Most of the Socialist rebels are against the party's links with its former foe, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), in the current ruling coalition. Some of them were reported to be seeking ties with opposition forces in upcoming national elections.

The conservative LDP lost its scandal-tainted 37-year grip on power in general elections in July 1993, giving rise to a coalition government shared by LDP defectors, centrists

and Socialists. But, in June, the Socialists bolted the anti-LDP alliance, which tried to alienate them from policy decisions. Yielding the swing vote in parliament, they helped the LDP come back to power in a new coalition and Mr. Murayama was elected as a compromise premier in that process.

The anti-LDP alliance last month formed a grand opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), with former premier and LDP head Toshiki Kaifu at its helm.

The SDP now faces the possibility of a total loss in Senate polls in July and the next general elections, seen likely to be called by the end of this year.

Mr. Murayama said the SDP might merge with the New Party Sakigake, a third minority partner in the ruling coalition, in forming a new party.

Sakigake is headed by Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

"We would like to hold talks with them (Sakigake) in a forward-looking, positive manner," the premier said.

They always have been, within Peruvian territory," he said.

Ecuadorian officials protested the incidents first, asserting Thursday members of Peru's army had crossed into Ecuador twice and the second time fired at Ecuador's troops when ordered to halt.

The Peruvian army at first denied any armed encounter with Ecuadorian troops.

But he played down the incidents and called for a "realistic and constructive dialogue" to ease tensions.

Mr. Goldenberg told a press conference Peruvian soldiers Monday and Wednesday were on routine border patrols on Peruvian territory along the Cenepa River when they were shot at by Ecuadorian soldiers and returned fire.

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## Los Angeles faces devastating quakes as ground tension builds — scientists

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Scientists have warned that mounting subterranean tension here threatens the second biggest U.S. city with tremendous earthquakes that could level 20-story buildings currently considered safe.

Stress between the Pacific and North American land plates that meet in California has been building to a critical point without needed relief, researchers reported in this week's edition of the journal Science.

"We think it's likely these faults could produce very large earthquakes, something that we've never seen in the historic record," said geologist James Dolan from the Southern California Earthquake Centre at the University of Southern California.

"When you look at geologically similar regions around the world, historically many of them have produced earthquakes in the 7.5 range from faults that look just like the faults beneath Los Angeles," he added.

The measurements cited are on the Richter scale. Each time the Richter magnitude increases by one the ground

motion is at least 10 times higher.

A quake above 7.0 is capable of heavy, widespread damage. A magnitude above 8.0 is capable of tremendous damage.

An 8.0 quake located on the San Andreas fault some 40 kilometres (30 miles) from downtown is regarded as the "Big One" in California.

The quake that struck 40 kilometres (25 miles) away from central Los Angeles on Jan. 17, 1994 registered at a magnitude of 6.7, leaving 61 dead and \$20 billion in damages after it.

Los Angeles should have experienced 17 quakes the size of last year's incident since 1800 that would have released pressure between the land masses, Mr. Dolan said. Instead it has witnessed only two.

Mr. Dolan calculated that the area should experience a quake ranging between 7.2 and 7.6 every 140 years. A "Big One" on the San Andreas fault should come once every 100 years he estimated.

But based on study of geological evidence quakes in

Los Angeles have not exceeded 7.0 since record keeping began in the 1880s.

Magnitude 7.0 quakes striking Los Angeles would be much more destructive than the "Big One" because their fault line is directly under the city, Mr. Dolan said.

The city was not prepared for earthquakes larger than magnitude seven, an accompanying study by U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Thomas Heaton reported.

Computer models Mr. Heaton and his colleagues used found that shaking from such quakes directly under the city would destroy 20-story buildings that meet current building codes.

In the aftermath of last year's quake investigators found cracked welds in steel frame buildings.

A third study of mathematical models for future quakes reported that 30 per cent of the stress building up would be relieved through quakes the size of last year's. Less frequent, larger incidents would account for the remaining 70 per cent.

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The former president also said the indemnities "do not necessarily constitute admission of guilt."

Mr. Vlok, Mr. Malan, Gen. Van Der Merwe and the others have not been granted immunity.

LOS ANGELES (R) — The two black lawyers in the O.J. Simpson murder trial participated in the most emotive debate heard yet in the highly volatile case as they discussed a racial epithet referred to throughout as the "N" word.

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"If anyone should slip and utter the word it's probably better to have a black man do it. If a white lawyer utters it will offend all," he said.

At issue was whether the defence will be able to question Detective Mark Fuhrman about his 1981 application for a disability pension from the Los Angeles Police Department in which he said he was under stress because he could not handle the pressure of working with minorities.

Fuhrman testified at a pre-trial hearing he found a bloody glove on Mr. Simpson's estate hours after the football legend's wife and a male friend had been stabbed to death.

The jury is made up of eight blacks, two Hispanics, one white and one mixed-race white-native American.

"It is the filthiest, nastiest, dirtiest word in the English language," Mr. Darden said adding it had no place in the English language and no place in the courtroom.

There was no legal or valid purpose, he argued, in questioning Mr. Fuhrman about whether he used a racial epithet 15 years ago.

"But Mr. Cochran and the defence have a purpose in going into that area. And the purpose is to inflame the passions of the jury and to ask them to pick sides," Mr. Darden said.

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## Row erupts over S. African police indemnities

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A furious row broke out Saturday over revelations that South Africa's former white rulers granted 3,500 police officers immunity from prosecution, including two former cabinet ministers and the serving police chief.

Former Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, former Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Commissioner of Police, General Johan Van Der Merwe were on the list revealed Friday by Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

The 3,500 people named were indemnified by former President F.W. de Klerk in the last days of white rule from prosecution for unnamed acts committed in defence of apartheid.

Mr. De Klerk, now one of two deputy presidents in President Nelson Mandela's unity government, has denied any wrongdoing in granting the clandestine amnesties days before last April's all-race election that ushered in majority democracy.

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He said Mr. Cochran wanted to "play the ace of

spades and play the race card. But this isn't a race case. We shouldn't allow him to play that card."

Mr. Cochran, one of the best-known trial lawyers in California whose client list reads like a who's who of Hollywood, launched a blistering attack on Mr. Darden's remarks and took the opportunity to accuse the prosecution team of being less than professional.

To say the jury could not be fair was outrageous, Mr. Cochran said.

In a reference to the previous two days of hearings about whether the prosecution could introduce testimony relating to Mr. Simpson's alleged history of spousal abuse, Mr. Cochran accused prosecutors of launching a character assassination attempt against his client.

Judge Ito has said he intends to have opening arguments in the case next Thursday or Friday.

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## Antique violin stolen from teenage prodigy

LONDON (AFP) — Vanessa-Mae Nicholson, a 16-year-old music prodigy, was said to be desperate after thieves stole her £200,000 (\$320,000) 18th century Italian-made Guadagnoli violin, press reports said.

"She is still in a state of shock because the violin has been all over the world with her and she made her debut with the London Symphony Orchestra playing it," Pamela Nicholson said of her Singapore-born daughter.

"There is a lot of her own history attached to it, not to mention the previous 200 years, and she would dearly love for it to be returned."

Vanessa has been hailed as one of the finest violinists of her generation and has made several acclaimed albums of classical music, with a new pop album soon to be released. Police said the burglars picked the front door locks at the family's West London home in the early hours Friday. They said the thieves had known precisely what they were looking for and ignored a host of other instruments in the home's ground-floor music room. They said the violin was insured.

According to knowledge sources, JD 50,000. represents half of the prize's first prize of Jordanian lottery. went to a national lottery. The prize is still awaiting a winner. The prize is still awaiting a winner. The prize is still awaiting a winner.

Record-breaking Christie's sale of Nureyev items

NEW YORK (R) — Renowned dancer Rudolf Nureyev's collection of costumes, jewellery, art and furnishings from his New York flat netted more than \$7.9 million, breaking some records in a two-day auction at Christie's that ended Friday.

The auction's take was double the pre-sale estimate of \$3.2 million to \$4.8 million. The season's most prestigious and high-profile auction drew a packed house that rapturously emotionally, particularly for the late dancer's old masters' paintings, Elizabethan oak bed and Venetian glass chandelier. "People came from around the world to bid and bid feverishly," said Christopher Burgh, chairman of Christie's American department.

The extraordinary sale, which was a tribute to Nureyev, a man whose collection embodied his artistic passions and flair for the dramatic, drew a crowd of collectors and art lovers. The season's most prestigious and high-profile auction drew a packed house that rapturously emotionally, particularly for the late dancer's old masters' paintings, Elizabethan oak bed and Venetian glass chandelier. "People came from around the world to bid and bid feverishly," said Christopher Burgh, chairman of Christie's American department.

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# 'Saudis massing troops'

(Continued from page 1)

flag. A clash broke out with Yemeni border police, who recovered the post and ripped down the flag.

There was no official Saudi comment on the incident.

Earlier this month Yemen and Saudi Arabia agreed to halt military movements along their disputed border and pull their forces back from the area, following a series of clashes.

Tension has remained high between the two countries, whose relations deteriorated during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis when Riyadh accused Sanaa of supporting Baghdad.

In Yemen's two-month civil war last year, Sanaa accused Riyadh of aiding southern Yemeni forces in their bid to break away from the north.

Yemen claims sovereignty over three Saudi provinces — Najran, Jazan and Assir — assigned to the kingdom under a treaty signed in 1934. Sanaa argues that the treaty expired in September 1992 and is opposed to renewing it.

The Yemeni Al Thawra weekly reported on Friday several people were killed or wounded in "wide-scale" clashes on Wednesday in which several Saudi troops

were captured. It said Saudi warplanes launched air raids on Yemeni positions.

There was no confirmation of the report by the weekly, the mouthpiece of the opposition Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

Official Yemeni sources had said a number of Yemeni soldiers were injured in a clash on Tuesday with a Saudi force that penetrated Yemeni territory.

An official Yemeni source on Friday denied a report in the Lebanese Al Anwar paper saying that Sanaa had rushed troops to the border and that Yemeni forces held a Saudi post inside Saudi territory.

"There is no truth whatsoever in this report... there are no Yemeni troops massed on the border," he said.

Al Anwar said telephone contacts took place between King Fahd and a number of Arab leaders on Thursday and that Saudi ambassadors were briefed on the massing of Yemeni troops.

The official Saudi Press Agency said King Fahd talked on Thursday with President Assad and President Mubarak and discussed "political and security developments on the Arab and international arena."



Palestinian youths clash with an Israeli military police unit after the Friday noon prayer as they were prevented from holding a demonstration in the Arab village of El Khader against the widening of the settlement of Ephrat (AFP photo)

## Chechens hold onto palace

(Continued from page 1)

of Russia, Mr. Clinton said "the violence must end."

"Escalate on all the parties to stop spilling blood and start making peace," he added.

Grozny has been subjected to air raids as well as relentless artillery bombardment, with Minutka Square, a rallying point for Chechen combatants in the south of the

city, hit by about a dozen bombs which killed at least three people and injured five more on Saturday, photographer on the scene said.

But victory was still not in sight for the Russians, more than a month after they were sent to put down the three-year-old rebellion in the secessionist republic.

## Jerusalem should not cause disunity

(Continued from page 1)

over this issue since the Kingdom has no ambitions or objectives other than protection of the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City," he added.

"Participation in the OIC (Jerusalem Committee) meeting manifests Jordan's determination to present its position with regard to the status of the Holy City," Mr. Mbeideen said.

Stressing that Jordan seeks to safeguard the holy shrines, Mr. Mbeideen recalled that Jordan had been acting as guardian of these places over the past five decades and undertook many measures, including the restoration of

the Dome of the Rock Mosque, in order to achieve that goal.

The Jerusalem Committee will give attention to efforts being made at all levels to ensure Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem, to protect its Islamic character and to secure the rights of all followers of the monotheistic religions, Mr. Mbeideen said.

The Jerusalem Committee, which was formed by OIC in 1975, has been entrusted with implementing resolutions passed by OIC and other international organisations which support OIC's stand, Mr. Mbeideen noted.

## Movement takes shape

(Continued from page 1)

lements have also boosted efforts to organise Palestinian ranks.

Dr. Abdul Shafi's call coincided with parallel, albeit uncoordinated, efforts to revive the PLO.

The new initiative to revive the PLO is led by Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi, who met with Palestinian opposition groups in Damascus last week.

Mr. Kaddoumi, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, even met with Khaled Al Fakhour, leader of the National Salvation Front, and Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP-GC), who were accused in the past of attempting to create an alternative organisation to the PLO.

According to sources from the opposition Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Mr. Kaddoumi has pledged to join in the call for the suspending the peace talks.

But other Palestinian sources are not optimistic about the success of these efforts, especially that most of the PLO leadership institutions have been defunct since PLO leader Yasser Arafat moved to the Gaza Strip last July.

Following are excerpts from Dr. Abdul Shafi's draft proposal:

... A movement for building democracy is needed... to practise its role initially among the people in the occupied territories.

The movement's political identity is based on the following:

— Commitment to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian land and the attainment of the Palestinian people's rights in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

— The movement reiterates the unity of the Palestinian people and that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the symbol of their unity.

— The movement considers the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands — the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank including East Jerusalem — and settlement construction as a blatant aggression condemned by the United Nations Security Council resolutions. They are serious obstacles to peace in the region.

— The movement is committed to the peace initiative launched by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on Nov. 15, 1988, and to Palestinian refugees' rights according to United Nations Resolution 194.

— The movement rejects any Israeli territorial claims in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and considers the construction and settlement of Israelis in that area illegal and in total contravention of the requirements of peace.

— The movement considers the continuation of Israeli claims as a flagrant call for violence and a distortion of the concept of peace. The movement holds Israel responsible for the violence that results as a consequence of the Israeli policies — whether it is Palestinian or Israeli violence.

— On the basis of the commitments mentioned above the Movement for Democracy is open for all individuals who believe and adhere to democracy and work to disseminate democratic values and practices in the Palestinian society. The movement is not ready to compromise its independent identity.

# Self-rule deal could die of irrelevance

## With continuing violence and stalemate over Jewish settlements, Rabin may have run out of ideas, Derek Brown in Jerusalem writes

IT HAS been a dreadful week for the Israeli government and for the peace accord with the Palestinians. Eleven lives have been taken, and trust between the so-called peace partners is as low as it has been — possibly as low as it can get without the whole process disintegrating.

The gloom is not just the product of a particularly grim week, but of the accumulated disillusion on both sides with an arrangement which has promised much and delivered dangerously little.

Some of the Palestinians have freedom of a sort, but it is the freedom of the ghetto. Within the self-rule enclaves of Jericho and the Gaza Strip, their borders guarded by Israeli troops, poverty is increasing. In the rest of the West Bank, still under military occupation, there is burning resentment about the remorseless expansion of Jewish settlements.

From the other side of the 1967 border, the view is not better. Rightwing Israelis were appalled by the very idea of peace with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Even liberals were apprehensive. Now everyone is sated with the almost daily reports of death. More than 100 Israelis have been killed since the signing

of the "historic" peace accord in September 1993, the bloodiest toll by far since the start of the Arab intifada, or uprising, in late 1987.

Last week's dead, 10 Palestinians and one Israeli, sustain the ratio of the intifada. But over recent months it has been much more balanced. That fact is chilling in a country obsessed by threat and survival.

Over the past 15 months of "peace", Islamist groups like Hamas and others opposed to the accord have hit civilian and security force targets more efficiently than ever before. Now even Mr. Arafat's raggedy police force seems to be joining in.

Last week's corpses include three Palestinian policemen, killed by Israeli troops at Beit Hanoun inside the northern border of the autonomous Gaza Strip. The army says categorically that the police fired first; the Palestinians insist that they did not fire at all.

As ever, what is believed is much more important than what can be proved. The conventional wisdom in Gaza today is that Israel deliberately lobbied a lethal attack to divert attention from its own obstruction of the peace process.

For an increasing number of Israelis, the affray at Beit Hanoun is evidence of the essential untrustworthiness of Mr. Arafat and the PLO. Instead of neutralising the militant threat, the argument goes, self-rule has dramatically increased it.

There have been signs for some time that the government and security forces are losing patience with the Palestinians' failure to deliver on security. Last autumn, in the wake of the Islamist suicide bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv, which claimed more than 20 Israeli lives, the gloves came off. At least one Islamist activist was assassinated in Gaza, and undercover operations were stepped up.

Last week brought dramatic evidence of the new, non-peace approach. On Monday, hours before the Beit Hanoun shooting, troops intercepted and shot dead three Hamas militants in two separate incidents in the West Bank. Four activists of the Popular Front were cornered in Ramallah also and, as the military analysts say, "eliminated".

There should be nothing inevitable about the response, but there always is a response. Recently, a woman settler died when her car was attacked by gunmen near Ramallah. Her brother-in-law was wounded. Two small girls

were in the vehicle. Neither was hurt.

The latest attack has brutally underlined the government's dilemma over Jewish colonisation of the West Bank, an issue which has suddenly jumped to the top of the "peace" agenda after months of muted Palestinian grumbling and casual Israeli reassurances.

The government is adamant that settlements can be discussed only when the time comes to negotiate a final-status agreement. In the meantime, it says, there will be no new public sector building, and no new settlements.

The reality is that settlements are growing, Jews are moving into the West Bank, land is being confiscated, and new roads are being constructed. All of this has gone on behind a smokescreen of legalistic guff about "state" land, private sector activity, security considerations, existing permits, and so on. What matters are facts on the ground, and those facts are humiliating for West Bank Palestinians.

After a recent violent clash on the site of yet another settlement expansion near Bethlehem, and the government's subsequent attempt at "compromise" (the site was moved and building is going ahead), Palestinians and settlers are talking themselves into a potentially ugly new confrontation.

Demonstrations, backed by peace groups and sections of the Israeli left, were planned at several building sites. In response, the more militant settlers are talking of taking defence into their own hands, and bitterly accusing the government of giving in to violence.

(Nothing about this is comic, but there have been surreal moments. Such as Eliakim Ha'etzi, one of the shriller settlers from the ultra-right community of Kiryat Arba, complaining about Palestinians "grabbing our land".)

Against this background of confrontation, it is perhaps unsurprising that there has been little progress on the next scheduled phase of the peace process: pulling Israeli troops out of Arab areas and extending self-rule into the occupied West Bank as a prelude to Palestinian elections. But therein lies the greatest danger of all, that without forward momentum the accord will atrophy and die of sheer irrelevance.

"We have moved from the siege of Beirut to the siege of Gaza," said the Palestinian National Authority spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeinis, last week. "We expected Israel to re-deploy its troops; instead it

has redeployed its settlers."

Mr. Rudeinis belongs to the vast majority of Palestinians who detect a plot, or several concurrent plots, in what has happened in the past half-year of political stalemate and deteriorating security.

Much more plausible, however, is the growing view that the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has simply run out of options, perhaps even of ideas. Politically, his survival and that of his Labour Party depend on the success of the peace process. But equally, he stands or falls on the be-all and end-all issue: security.

Any concession to the Palestinians, for example on the release of the 5,000 or more prisoners still in Israeli jails, will be interpreted by the right as weakness, and an incitement to more violence. But if he offers nothing to the PLO and instead appeases the right with harsher security, Mr. Arafat could lose his already crumbling popular base.

In a system dominated by news bulletins — what in Northern Ireland used to be called the politics of the latest atrocity — it seems an age since Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat stood side by side in Stockholm to receive the Nobel peace prize.

The Guardian

# Pakistan's mighty Khan

LAHORE — HE is mobbed wherever he goes. People want to touch him. School-children happily line up to give him their pocket money, women fling their jewellery at him, small traders and businessmen have raised billions of rupees for his cause. His rallies get bigger and more stirring by the day. Rousing slogans proclaim him as the next prime minister of Pakistan.

He is Imran Khan, a former captain of Pakistan's cricket team, who shot to glory after Pakistan won cricket's World Cup in 1992. These days Mr. Khan is raising money for a cancer hospital for the poor in memory of his mother, who died of the disease. More worryingly for Pakistan's political leaders, the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, and the opposition's Nawaz Sharif, he has become a

popular icon.

Until recently, the Oxford-educated Mr. Khan wore Armani suits, dated London socialites and rubbed shoulders with royalty and rock stars. Now he has turned his back on all that. Clad in traditional Pakistani shalwar kameez, he claims the West is immoral, depraved, hypocritical and imperialistic. He accuses Pakistani ruling elites of being heartless and corrupt. There is talk of forming a welfare party or pressure group to address the plight of the "wretched of the earth".

To Pakistanis the new Imran Khan is noble (he comes from a noble line of Pathans), truthful (he admitted that he had once "tampered" with the ball in a county cricket match), selfless (cancer hospital for the poor), independent (he is critical of all politicians

and parties) and homespun (he refuses to wear Western clothes and frowns on Western music). He scolds upper class children for aspiring to become "brown sahibs". He insists that his hospital will not become dependent on handouts from the rich or the powerful. His populist rhetoric evokes standing ovations across the country.

Mr. Khan's stardom springs partly from people's discontent with Pakistan's corrupt political leadership. It also reflects strong undercurrents of anti-Western feeling among many sections of state and society. How has this come about?

Since Pakistan reverted to democracy in 1988, the country has been plagued by recurring constitutional crises, bitter palace intrigues and acute political instability. Five governments

have come and gone, three elections have taken place. Every regime, at national and state level, has faced charges of corruption, embezzlement and plunder. The same landed elites which propped up military regimes in the past now hog the power under democracy.

Benazir Bhutto has turned out to be a disappointment. Jobs are harder to find, inflation is soaring (over 20 per cent unofficially), law and order has rapidly deteriorated and sectarianism (financed by Saudi Arabia and Iran) is rife. Ethnic conflict has paralysed the country's largest industrial city, Karachi, where more than 800 people (including 70 policemen) were killed by terrorists in 1994.

The economy is slack. For the third year running, growth is expected to be lower than the 6 per cent average for the 1980s. Many industries, including cotton (the country's top foreign-exchange earner) and sugar, are in had shape. Since March, the Karachi Stock Exchange index has declined 727 points to 1936 points in December.

The country is steadily drifting into a pro-Islam, anti-West mood. Pakistanis felt betrayed when the United States, a staunch ally for over four decades, cut off economic and military aid in 1990 in retaliation for Pakistan's refusal to abandon its nuclear programme. Lack of Western support for the cause of Muslims in Kashmir and Bosnia is seen as part of the West's "new crusade against Islam."

In this atmosphere of despair and drift many people find themselves yearning for a saviour to provide security, stability and self-respect. Can the born-again Muslim Imran Khan take on this role? For the moment, Mr. Khan is insisting that he is not interested in politics because he finds it "contemptible". But he admits that General Hamid Gul is his mentor and made a momin (the rightly guided).

General Gul was head of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence agency when the Afghan war was at its peak. He is an aggressive self-proclaimed "Islamic visionary" who has been touring the country exhorting people to demand the liberation of Kashmir by force from India. The danger to Pakistan is that the "mighty Khan" (as he is fondly called) might become a pawn in the hands of such demagogues.

The Economist.



## Clinton touts economic record

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton turned his attention Monday from legislative battles and attacks against his latest cabinet nominee to his rosiest record on the economic front.

"This economic report is an important milestone for me. It measures our success in fulfilling the mission that I brought to this presidency," Mr. Clinton said in an Oval Office ceremony releasing his annual report on the state of the economy to Congress.

"I ran for this office to help restore the American dream and to guarantee its availability for all Americans into the 21st century," he said, noting the report showed strong growth, low inflation and a widening employment base.

Mr. Clinton also announced a 90-cent raise in the \$4.25 per hour minimum wage over two years, fulfilling the pledge he made after his party's defeat in November legislative elections to try to give blue collar workers a share of the economic recovery.

The shift in focus to the economy comes as Mr. Clinton is embroiled in a battle over changes the Republican-controlled Congress wants to make in his cherished crime bill and a volatile debate over his surgeon general nominee, Henry Foster.

"The president is doing a lot of things that are related to promoting America's economic interest both here at

home and abroad," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said earlier.

But the administration's economic policies and the proposed wage hike are also under fire.

Republicans in Congress have vowed to vote down the minimum wage increase and have complained that Mr. Clinton's \$1.61 trillion budget for fiscal 1996 does not contain enough spending cuts.

Mr. Clinton defended his financial plan, challenging Republicans to match his deficit cutting efforts.

"Now they're in the majority, it's their turn," he said. "If they don't like my budget, let's see what theirs is."

They've made promises that would make the deficit bigger."

The president spent the day closeted with business leaders and state treasurers to discuss the countries' finances and held his first meeting of the President's Export Council.

The panel, which consists of 28 private sector business leaders, lawmakers and White House officials, advises the president on export policy.

"I think it's one of the signature elements of this administration that we base our fight for increasing exports abroad in the context of our overall foreign policy," Mr. McCurry said.

## China high on list as OECD widens work on Asian economies

PARIS (AFP) — The OECD is to work over the next few months on building bridges between its industrial members and other present and future major players in the world economy, with China high on the list, OECD sources said.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), criticised by the United States and some other non-European members last year for its alleged "Eurocentricism," is also taking a special interest in India, another potential future economic giant.

At the same time, it is further upgrading the "dialogue" it began in 1989 with the Dynamic Asian Economies (DAEs), expanded in 1993 to include key Latin American countries.

The increased emphasis on China was reconfirmed last June when the organisation's annual ministerial meeting decided the OECD should continue to broaden its "knowledge and understanding" of China and explore the possibilities of dialogue and

cooperation with the fast-growing economy.

Two events with a direct bearing on trade and economic relations with China highlights a tight schedule of meetings, workshops and seminars on non-member economies planned over the next three months by the OECD or its research affiliate, the OECD Development Centre.

First, the OECD secretariat's finance and trade directorates have prepared the ground for an informal workshop on "Trade and investment linkages with China," scheduled to be held in Paris on March 2-3.

Second, the Development Centre hopes to organise, together with a Chinese institution, a meeting in Beijing towards the end of April to review progress made in converting China's military industry into commercial production units turning out goods for civilian use.

In addition, a high-level OECD mission may visit China within the foreseeable future, although OECD officials say no formal decision has as yet been made as to

the timing.

The idea of such a trip by a team of top OECD officials was proposed when the OECD countries held a high-level meeting in Tokyo last October with the countries known in OECD jargon as the Dynamic Non-Member Economies (DNMEs), and won the support of Staffan Sjöhlman, the Swedish diplomat who was acting as OECD secretary general at the time.

The March 2-3 meeting in Paris, which may be attended by a Chinese team although this has still to be confirmed, will focus in particular on Chinese policies on trade and foreign direct investment (FDI).

The event coincides with a continuing trade row between Beijing and Washington and an ongoing dispute over China's bid to become a founder member of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The planned Beijing meeting on Chinese military industry conversion will be organised jointly by the Development Centre and the

Chinese Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (COSTIND).

The talks will be based on a study of Chinese enterprises carried out on the basis of previously unpublished material, sources at the centre said.

The Chinese process "has had some success but needs to go further" and will require cooperation with foreign partners, notably at the levels of finance and technology, according to these sources.

Participants will be able to compare China's experience with that of Russia, which has been less successful. Russian officials are expected to attend along with teams from international bodies such as the World Bank, the same sources said.

On March 6-7, the Development Centre will cosponsor with India's Centre for Policy Research a meeting in New Delhi on the Indian experience in policy reforms to boost structural change and competitiveness.

### 1992 parallels seen

## Sterling slumps to two-year lows

LONDON (R) — Sterling slumped to its lowest against the mark for two years Tuesday amid concern about inflation, slowing growth and Prime Minister John Major's political problems.

Some analysts said there could be a rerun of the economic and market conditions that culminated in "black Wednesday" in 1992 when the pound crashed out of the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) because of a conflict of government policy.

The 1992 crisis stemmed from the fundamental conflict between the low level of interest rates needed to dig the economy out of its longest recession since the 1930s and the high level needed to keep sterling up and within its ERM bands.

Now, Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke faces a similar dilemma with an election looking before

April 1997.

"We are seeing the same set of conditions now that we saw around black Wednesday," said Nick Parsons, head of treasury advisory group at Canadian bank CIBC Wood Gundy.

"We are seeing an equally fundamental conflict between the level of growth that is necessary for Clarke to hit his inflation target and the level of growth that is necessary for the government to be reelected," Mr. Parsons added.

Sterling plunged more than 18 per cent in the aftermath of the 1992 crisis to an all-time low of 2.3147 marks, and this level is in sight again after the pound dropped below its 1994 floor of 2.3710 marks. Around midday Tuesday it was trading at 2.3640 marks.

There is also the same element of the market targeting certain levels, analysts said.

This time the target was the 1994 low just as the pound's ERM floor of 2.7780 marks was on black Wednesday. The next target will obviously be the all-time low.

Mr. Clarke is aiming at a core inflation rate of 2.5 per cent or below by the time of the next election but rising prices at the factory gate call this into question. January's core inflation index is due to be published Wednesday and is forecast by analysts at 2.8 per cent, well above the chancellor's target.

Meanwhile, growth is slowing, an industry survey Tuesday showing flat consumer demand and figures showing a nine per cent drop in new construction orders in the last three months only served to hammer the pound lower.

Since becoming chancellor in mid-1993, Mr. Clarke has had an easy ride with the pound's devaluation prompting a surge in exports and

pushing growth to levels not seen since the boom of the late 1980s. He took over from Norman Lamont who was basically sacked because of the black Wednesday debacle.

But this is fast becoming Mr. Clarke's first real test, analysts said. Last year he had it easy, pushing up rates to stem inflation when the economy was growing strongly, but now the question is whether he has the nerve to increase rates again given the clear evidence of economic slowdown.

This dilemma could spell the end of the cosy relationship between Mr. Clarke and Bank of England Governor "steady" Eddie George, a well-known inflation hawk. A bank/treasury split would hit confidence hard, particularly that of overseas investors, and would send the pound reeling, analysts said.

## Iraq hikes travel tax

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqis wanting to travel abroad must pay a tax of 100,000 dinars, or \$153 at the unofficial rate, compared with \$62 previously, the daily Al Jumhuriya reported here Tuesday.

Iraqis aged under 18 pay 60,000 dinars (\$92) in tax, the paper said, quoting an official at the General Directorate of Emigration.

It is the second hike in the travel tax since it was first imposed in May 1993 at a level of 15,000 dinars (\$23). A few months later it was raised to 40,000 dinars (\$62).

The average monthly salary in Iraq is about 3,000 dinars.

The tax is aimed at halting devaluation of the Iraqi dinar by reducing the demand for dollars provoked by the foreign travel.

The dinar is worth \$3.2 at the official rate, but the greenback is traded for 600 dinars in banks and 650 dinars on the parallel market.

The four-year U.N. embargo has triggered rampant inflation and deprived Iraq of its oil income, which used to account for more than 90 per cent of its overall revenues.

## Tourism earns India \$1.6b

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A record 1.8 million tourists visited India last year despite a plague epidemic in September which led to many countries suspending air and sea links, the government has said. A record number of 221,000 tourists visited the country in December alone and total earnings for 1994 were \$1.6 billion, a climb of 11.6 per cent over the previous year when 1.7 million tourists visited India.

The upsurge in tourist arrivals was mainly due to the concerted efforts made by the department of tourism, state governments, and the travel, trade and hotel industry," the statement said.

## Sri Lankan premier to fight against privatisation

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike condemned the World Bank's privatisation prescriptions and publicly opposed the sale of profit-making state enterprises, a state-run daily reported Monday. Ms. Bandaranaike opposed in principle the privatisation of any public commercial venture and declared that the World Bank was advising the government to privatise "not with any love for Sri Lanka," the evening Observer said.

The newspaper said the premier pledged to fight in parliament against privatisation, a policy strongly advocated by her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Ms. Kumaratunga in her maiden policy statement to

parliament on Jan. 6 announced a sweeping privatisation programme aimed at selling off key state-run service, including aviation, transport and insurance. She said her new government would also end the state monopoly on power generation and hand over infrastructure development projects to the private sector.

In sharp contrast to her daughter's policy, Mr. Bandaranaike recalled how she resisted pressure from the World Bank and nationalised petroleum distribution run by foreign multinationals in the 1960s. "The (state-run) Petroleum Corp. has now become a leading profit-making institution in the country," Ms. Bandaranaike said.

## Pakistan to complete privatisation of industrial units this year

KARACHI (AFP) — The Pakistani government plans to sell all state-owned industrial plants this year to complete its privatisation programme, officials said.

So far 94 out of 118 public-sector factories and corporations have been put up for auction and the remaining 25 units will be offered in the near future, Privatisation Commission Chairman Naveed Qamar told AFP.

In addition to automobile, cement, fertilizer and chemical plants the government will also sell two thermal-power generation plants for the first time, the officials said.

The privatisation includes both total divestment

through open bidding and partial divestment in the case of large-scale manufacturing and services.

About 70 public-sector units, including two banks, have been privatised since the process was initiated in 1988 under the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Privatisation went into high gear during the term of premier Nawaz Sharif, now an opposition leader, during his 1990-93 stint in office.

However, the privatisation drive has been a focus of controversy, both now and when Mr. Sharif was in power.

Both sides have accused each other of committing irregularities. In some cases

trade-union activists went to the court but their pleas for stopping privatisation have been rejected.

The Bhutto government last month arrested for alleged bidding fraud a former chairman of the Privatisation Commission, retired general Saad Qadir, along with Mian Riaz Shah, chairman of plastic-pipe maker Pakistan PVC, who bought one of the units.

The arrest of the Pakistan PVC chief angered the business community, which threatened to boycott the privatisation if he was not released.

The business people have also expressed concern over the "slow" pace of privatisation.

Ms. Bhutto, who is again prime minister, has pledged full accountability in privatisation and reconstituted the Privatisation Commission in November, a month after assuming office.

The government has moved to privatise the telecommunications network, which has assets of more than \$9 billion. Telecommunications services for sensitive institutions such as the army are to remain in state control.

About 12 per cent of the shares of Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTC) have been sold to the public in the form of vouchers.

### THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

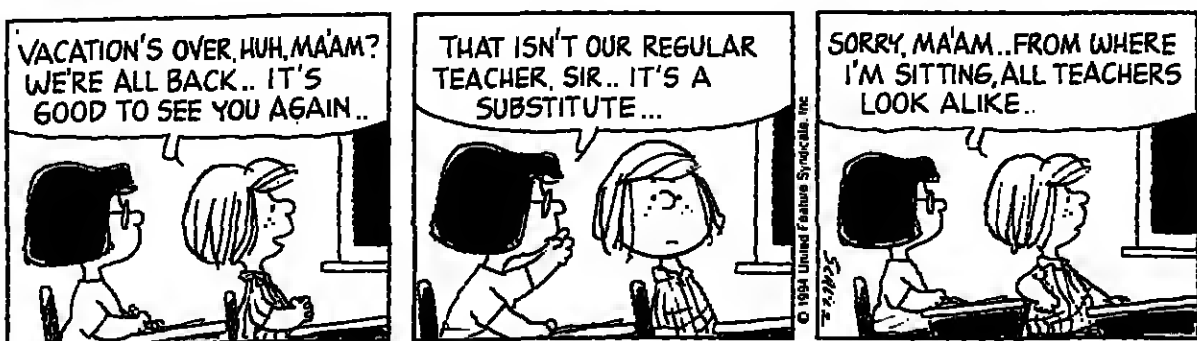
ACROSS

- 1 Mine secretion of a kind
- 8 Soap
- 10 City in England
- 14 Was wearing
- 15 Cost of
- 16 Repeat
- 17 Concerning
- 18 Visited
- 20 Tropical cyclone
- 22 — code
- 23 Legal doctrine
- 24 Field test
- 25 Delicate hue
- 26 Possessive
- 29 Consequence
- 31 Canadian
- 32 Party
- 33 Get through a crisis
- 40 Bill
- 41 Egg-shaped
- 42 Asian mountain range
- 43 Follow orders
- 44 Inch
- 46 Nonverbal talk
- 48 Egyptian queen, briefly
- 51 Hokey
- 52 Heavy snowfalls
- 57 Song by Irving
- 58 Specialized vocabulary
- 60 Dobbie's fare
- 61 Inert saline
- 62 Justice
- 63 Nachweh
- 64 Soldier
- 65 Nerves

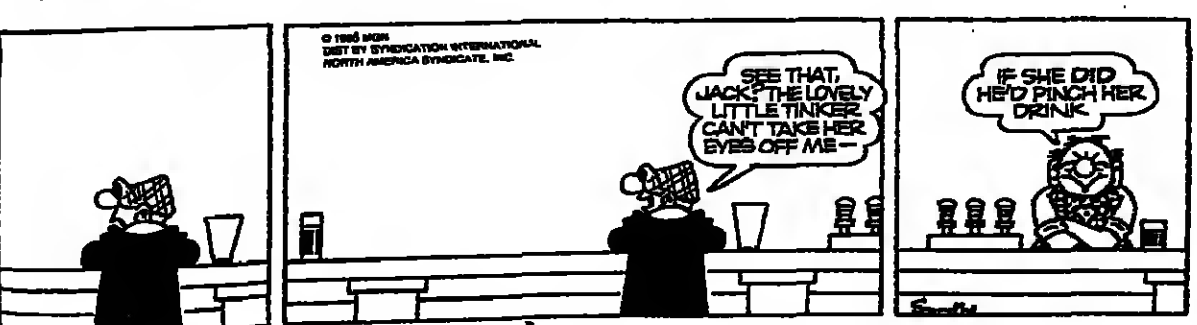
DOWN

- 1 Parson title
- 2 Barred
- 3 Fragrance
- 4 Decant
- 5 Total
- 6 Port in Brazil
- 7 Pure air
- 8 Confident
- 9 Sea bird
- 10 "Try will"
- 11 Thick-walled nut
- 12 The things here
- 13 Washed down
- 16 Organic compounds
- 21 — de-se-
- 24 Bubble-bubble
- 25 Cheesman
- 26 Opposite of reseller
- 27 Attempt
- 28 Wee one
- 29 Winkledon
- 30 Winner, once
- 31 Overcast
- 32 Lawyer's abbr.
- 33 Burrow
- 34 Asian land
- 35 Give out
- 37 Tempe
- 38 Balanced
- 39 Highland
- 40 leader
- 43 Hidesome woman
- 44 Hat with a tassel
- 45 Weary
- 46 Tim on a blouse
- 47 Closer to like
- 48 Way
- 49 Cloudless
- 50 Cotton thread
- 52 8 lamp
- 53 Together, musically
- 54 Go by bus
- 55 Go to the —
- 56 Capt. Hook's
- 58 London dialect

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DENEY

SATHY

YOSSIF

ZEERIF

Answer: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: BATON FAMED SLOUCH BOILED

Answer: What was the boss' relationship with his bookkeeper? — HE COUNTED ON HIM

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss with allies how mutual projects can be improved. Try to understand better what they have on their minds. Sit down this evening and write to those who have data you require.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep busy with financial affairs that are important to your welfare now. Listen to what a professional has to say that will be helpful to you and reflect on it this evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) State your aims to the right people today and bring forth from them the assistance you want that will make you a more successful person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are able to handle those personal matters today with relative ease provided you start on them early. An attachment is most affectionate this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on social activities this PM and plan for future events. Your private affairs need to be taken care of without delay. Show that you are an interesting and energetic person.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) See what you can do to have a more pleasing image, both in private and public life. Improve your career via the civic platform. Mix tonight with people of all types and make a new friend.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) New conditions are at work that will give you an opportunity for greater benefits and favours than you have had in a long time. This evening is good for both private and public activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are responsibilities that must be handled immediately or you get into deeper hot water later on. Once these are completed much happiness with mate is possible.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can work out deals now for longtime agreements with associates. First let them state their views and then you can say your piece. Go out for dinner later on.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can make this a productive and happy day provided that you first come to a meeting of the minds with fellow associates. Later, consult with one who can help you with health matters.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You desire entertainment which is all right provided you get some tasks out of the way first. Later, use your creative talent with vim and vigor.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you show your willingness to help solve problems at home today, much harmony can result by early evening. Plan how to get that project in the business world rolling.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst — Onyx



Antique violin stolen from teenage prodigy

LONDON (AFP) — A 16-year-old music prodigy has stolen her own 20th-century violin, press reports say. She is still in a state of shock over the theft, which she made her debut in the London Symphony Orchestra playing it. The violin, a 18th-century Stradivari, was valued at \$50,000. The girl, who is a member of the London Symphony Orchestra, said she was "in a state of shock" and "didn't know what to do" after the theft. She is currently in the United States, where she is studying at the Juilliard School. The violin was found in a storage room at the Juilliard School. The girl's father, a violinist, said he was "devastated" by the theft. He said his daughter was "a very sensitive child" and "was very attached to the violin". The violin was stolen from her room at the Juilliard School. The girl's father said he was "in a state of shock" and "didn't know what to do" after the theft. She is currently in the United States, where she is studying at the Juilliard School. The violin was found in a storage room at the Juilliard School. The girl's father, a violinist, said he was "devastated" by the theft. He said his daughter was "a very sensitive child" and "was very attached to the violin".

# business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Egyptian wins half of lottery's first prize

According to knowledgeable sources, JD 50,000, which represents half of the New Year's first prize of Jordan's national lottery, went to an Egyptian worker. The General Union of Voluntary Societies which issues the monthly lottery is still awaiting for the holder of the other half of the prize to come forward and show the ticket. Rumours say the co-winner could be another Egyptian who might have left the country (Jordan Times).

## Record-breaking Christie's sale of Nureyev items

NEW YORK (R) — A record-breaking Christie's sale of Nureyev items, including a collection of his personal belongings, jewelry, and a collection of his New Year's resolutions, broke more than \$1 million in a two-day auction. Christie's that ended Friday, the auction's take was \$1.2 million, the pre-sale estimate was \$400,000. The sale included a collection of Nureyev's personal belongings, including a collection of his New Year's resolutions, a collection of his personal belongings, and a collection of his New Year's resolutions. The sale included a collection of Nureyev's personal belongings, including a collection of his New Year's resolutions, a collection of his personal belongings, and a collection of his New Year's resolutions.

## The Industrial Cities Corporation considers establishing a new industrial city in Karak in cooperation with Mo'ta University. The project will be financed by the Japanese aid to the Kingdom (Al Dustour).

The privatisation of the Jordan Electricity Authority has been postponed until March 1995. The privatisation was scheduled to begin this month (Sawt Al Shaab).

## The oil tanker Jordan had purchased to import oil from Yemen during the Gulf crisis is to be sold. The tanker, which has been used for many years to ship oil from Yemen and was leased to an international oil transport company, carries a JD 2.5 million price tag (Sawt Al Shaab).

Jordan Export Development and Trade Centres Corporation received 65 invitations to participate in local and international fairs during 1995 (Al Aswaq).

## Electrical power generated last year was 4,676 kilowatt/hour, compared to 4,389 kilowatt/hour in 1993, including electric power given to Syria in each of these years. As such, the growth in the power generated for local usage was 7.7 per cent. The peak load reached 794 megawatts in 1994, compared to 717 megawatts in 1993 (Al Shaab).

Based on an approval from the Ministry of Labour, an association of traders in electrical and electronic equipment was set up on Jan. 9, 1995. The founders are calling on all interested traders to attend a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday (Jan. 17, at 4 p.m.) (Al Ra'i).

## The ministry of supply demanded the payment of a JD 220,000 guarantee after the agent, Qalaji Bros. Trading, failed to supply 26,000 tonnes of sugar to the ministry (Al Dustour).

The board of directors of the Irbid District Electricity Company decided to give all the workers a JD 10 personal allowance a month starting this month. The workers had their salaries and the other allowances increased last June (Al Dustour).

## The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company announced a tender for the supply of 100,000 gas cylinders. Last day for accepting offers is Feb. 26, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

The 1995 budget for the Civil Aviation Authority amounts to JD 5.5 million. Capital spending was 91.6 per cent of the '94 budget (Al Ra'i).

## Lebanon's treasury bonds lose glitter

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese treasury bonds — the stars of the country's financial recovery in 1993 and 1994 — are losing their glitter in 1995.

Weekly subscriptions to the high-interest bonds, which sometimes topped 300 billion Lebanese liras (\$180 million) in 1994, have slumped as low as 64 billion (\$39 million) this year according to central bank figures.

The bank now faces weekly deficits of new subscriptions against maturities of up to 70 billion liras (\$42 million), financial sources say.

Since treasury bonds are the main investment instrument in Lebanese liras their popularity drop has sharply reduced the interest of Lebanese in holding onto the local currency.

In a reversal of last year's trend, when investors lured by 20 per cent interest rates and a steadily appreciating pound sold hoarded dollars to buy treasury bonds, Lebanese are now banging onto their dollars or even buying more.

The bonds, which have been the government's main instrument for financing huge budget deficit caused by ambitious reconstruction speeding, contributed to an inflow of foreign capital.

The inflow helped the Lebanese lira appreciate against the dollar in 1993 by more than seven per cent and by nearly four per cent in 1994, in what many bankers see as the main achievement of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri.

But dealers say the

## Arab Potash Company hikes exports by 10%

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) increased its exports by more than 10 per cent of 1.5 million tonnes in 1994 as the international market for potash picked after a period of stagnation and uncertain prices, company officials said Saturday.

They said the company expected to increase its production to 1.7 million tonnes in 1995, slightly below the full production capacity because of maintenance work at its production facilities on the shore of the Dead Sea.

The officials said APC also expected higher profits in 1995 in view of what one of

them described as an upward swing in demand and thus prices since mid-1994.

The company raised its annual installed production capacity to 1.8 million with the commissioning in June 1994 of a 400,000-tonne-per-year new plant, the first phase of an expansion programme that aims at an annual production capacity of 2.2 million tonnes by 1998.

The company produced 1.55 million tonnes in 1994 and exported 1.15 million tonnes. The turnover of the company was JD 128 million in 1993, and net profits were JD 24 million compared with JD 22 million in 1993, JD 28 million in 1992 and JD 38 million in 1991.

Among the major importers of APC outputs are India, which bought 300,000 tonnes in 1994, China (200,000 tonnes), Indonesia (200,000 tonnes) and Malaysia (140,000 tonnes). Other clients include Korea, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Vietnam, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

APC prices favour Asian and Far Eastern buyers because of a \$20 advantage in freight; the average landed cost for a tonne of potash in Asia and the Far East is around \$110 while it is \$130 in Europe.

Canada leads the world in potash production and exports.

The Arab Potash Company has already signed contracts

to supply 600,000 tonnes in 1995. The deals need to be finalised with definite prices, the officials said.

"We are seeing a significant improvement in the international market for potash since mid-1994, and we expect prices to continue to go up in 1995," said a senior official of the company.

The official said the company expected an increase of \$4 per tonne in the first half of 1995 and another \$4 per tonne in the second half, as the republics in ex-Soviet Union cut back on their production.

Dumping by producers in some of the ex-Soviet republics in the transition from a single entity to individual countries — with experienced market strategists making way to politicians — was widely blamed for the stagnation in prices that the interna-

tional potash market witnessed in 1992-93.

Reports say that producers in the republics have now realised that they suffered heavy losses from haphazard exports and have cut down on production as they ponder new marketing strategies.

The APC floated a fresh issue in 1994 and raised its capital to JD 83.31 million from JD 72.45 million and used about JD 35 million it collected in premiums to finance its expansion projects.

The government of Jordan is the majority shareholder in the company. Other equity owners include the Social Security Corporation, the Arab Mining Company and the governments of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Libya and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank as well as the private sector.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
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ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 14/01/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	240	42065	184.000	183.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5100	21553	4.310	4.200
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	7054	2892	4.100	4.180
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2000	3020	1.600	1.530
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2000	5700	2.880	2.850
JORDAN EDRAFT BANK	2015	9510	3.060	3.030
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	10750	12587	1.160	1.140
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	7104	26192	3.700	3.680
BETT ELAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	500	2205	4.410	4.410
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1050	3328	2.450	2.460
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	33820	83968	1.490	1.500
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	562	2321	4.140	4.150
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2850	4647	1.660	1.630
BANKS SECTOR	94925	245765	INDEX NUMBER: 158.12	CHANGE: -0.637
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2450	5972	2.450	2.440
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	250	625	2.550	2.500
INSURANCE SECTOR	2700	6502	INDEX NUMBER: 127.15	CHANGE: -0.059
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	3950	6044	1.540	1.530
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	9900	14751	1.490	1.490
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	1100	6818	6.500	6.200
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2400	7555	3.170	3.150
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	600	1427	2.470	2.350
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	750	915	1.260	1.220
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	5600	18450	3.220	3.400
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	25300	82550	3.480	3.500
SERVICES SECTOR	49600	139511	INDEX NUMBER: 131.94	CHANGE: -0.067
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	26323	77489	2.960	2.940
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	100	288	2.900	2.880
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	500	2105	5.500	5.400
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	350	1498	4.350	4.250
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	1716	13128	7.750	7.650
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2250	12035	5.380	5.340
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	600	625	1.040	1.030
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	1000	2725	2.720	2.720
QAR AL QANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	746	12190	16.450	16.200
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	10250	10375	1.030	1.010
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	165921	152352	1.910	1.880
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	4000	5600	1.430	1.400
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	800	3312	4.240	4.140
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	400	1104	2.760	2.720
ALADON INDUSTRIES	300	1350	4.550	4.500
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/UTMO	10850	8709	8.200	8.000
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	350	1805	5.250	5.100
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	600	1360	2.260	2.220
KNAUTH INVESTMENT	4300	7731	1.740	1.800
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	900	3766	4.180	4.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	10700	32448	2.150	2.080
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	246456	333368	INDEX NUMBER: 127.96	CHANGE: -0.917
GRAND TOTAL	394821	738746	INDEX NUMBER: 143.72	CHANGE: -0.702
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	300272			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	289795			

## Omani official: Japanese reluctant to invest in Gulf

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan is reluctant to invest more in the Gulf region because of a lack of skilled labour and concerns over possible instability, an Omani official has said.

Sheikh Yaqub Ibn Hamad Al Harithi, chairman of the Omani Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the UAE daily Al Khaleej he did not expect the oil-rich Gulf to attract major investments from Japan or the West as they prefer other areas.

"I am not optimistic about attracting Japanese or Western investment to the Gulf region," he said.

More than 200 officials and businessmen from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met their counterparts in Tokyo last month to discuss joint ventures which are essential for Gulf attempts to build an industrial base and lessen reliance on unpredictable oil exports.

"At our talks in Tokyo, the Japanese claimed they were worried about investing in the Gulf or the Middle East on the grounds that these tense areas which lack cheap labour and qualified cadres and that their markets are limited," he said.

He said Japanese investors appeared to prefer neighbouring China, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia while Europe and the United States

are turning to the former Soviet Union and its previous communist allies in East Europe.

The conference followed several similar meetings between the GCC and the West.

But such meetings have produced no concrete results as Western investors seem not to want to commit themselves to major projects in the area because of its limited market potential.

No official figures are available on Western investments in the GCC but those by Japan are estimated at around \$3.5 billion, a fraction of its worldwide assets of nearly \$386 billion.

Foreign investors have also complained about restrictions on ownership of projects in GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE. Despite their liberal economic policies, the six states still stipulate foreign investors must have at least 49 per cent local partnership.

"There are \$170 billion in liquidity inside the GCC countries. But these countries do not know how to invest such funds," Mr. Harithi said. "They need technology and need to think well in order to invest their own funds instead of seeking Japanese or American liquidity."

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## Cowboys, 49ers face NFL showdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — American football's two title favourites meet here Sunday with reigning champion Dallas trying to secure a place in history and San Francisco seeking their moment in the spotlight.

The 49ers and Cowboys meet in a National Football League (NFL) semi-final, with the winner playing San Diego or Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl on January 29 in Miami. Dallas seeks an unprecedented third straight Super Bowl victory.

"We are at a crossroads in history where we could become the NFL's greatest team," Dallas owner Jerry Jones said.

The 49ers beat Dallas 21-14 last November in the regular season, helping them secure home-field advantage for this playoff game. A Dallas loss would be devastating to new coach Barry Switzer, who replaced Jimmy Johnson this season.

"It would be very disappointing," he said. "It would hurt. We would have lost our golden purpose."

"We have got to win," said Dallas receiver Michael Irvin. "It's not something you want to look back at 10 years from now wishing you had done."

Dallas rusher Emmitt Smith, slowed by a strained left hamstring, is expected to play. Rains in California the past week could produce poor field conditions, but Smith is not worried.

"I'm a pretty good mudder," he said. "I'll be out there."

Quarterbacks Troy Aikman of Dallas and Steve Young of San Francisco will each be tested by one of the league's top defenses. But the best head-to-head matchup will be Irvin and Alvin Harper against 49ers defender Deion Sanders.

"I like it when the challenge is great," Irvin said. "Usually, when the challenge is great, the whole world is watching."

Teams have simply avoided throwing against Sanders, who has seven interceptions this season. But his backfield teammate has picked off eight and will handle whichever Dallas threat Sanders is not guarding.



Emmitt Smith, the Dallas Cowboys' star running back, at practice

## Olympic Games qualifying starts in Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The qualifying competition to determine which three countries represent Africa at the 1996 Olympic Games football finals in the United States begins Sunday.

Burundi play Djibouti in Banjumbura, Lesotho tackle Namibia in Maseru and Burkina Faso meet Guinea Bissau in Ouagadougou in preliminary-round, first-leg fixtures.

The return matches are scheduled for the weekend of January 27-29 with the overall winners going forward to the first-round proper in April.

South Africa await Burundi or Djibouti, Cameroon have been paired with Lesotho or Namibia and Tunisia will confront Burkina Faso or Guinea Bissau.

None of the six countries to action this weekend are likely qualifiers for the 16-nation finals, scheduled for five African cities — Athens, Birmingham, Miami, Orlando and Washington.

But it will be a special day for the contenders as they compete for the first time in the Olympics, which ranks second only to the World in universal football importance.

World governing body FIFA are so concerned the Olympics could upstage their premier event they have restricted the qualifying rounds to players aged under 23.

In the finals, teams can field three players over the age limit, a move that has been criticised in Europe as a backward step in the development of rising stars.

Burundi are favoured to build a winning lead over Djibouti, a tiny former French colony situated at the horn of Africa, which was admitted to FIFA only last June.

A club from Burundi reached the African Cup-winners' Cup final two years ago and the youth side defeated Malawi and Egypt to reach the African finals, which begin January 24.

Lesotho could draw heavily on the squad that gave South Africa a fright in the youth championship while Namibia have a sound youth development programme.

Burkina Faso, should prove too strong at home for Guinea Bissau.

## Romario completes transfer to Flamengo

BARCELONA (AFP) — Romario announced Friday he had finally signed for Flamengo after difficult and lengthy negotiations with Barcelona club officials, his agent and Flamengo president Kleber Leite.

And according to Barcelona's vice-president Joan Gaspart, the Catalan club received 600 million pesetas (about 4.5 million) in the form of a bank guarantee which was meticulously examined by Barcelona accountants.

The 28-year-old Brazilian World Cup star, who had played at Barcelona for a season and a half, leaves for Rio on Saturday morning.

Romario, who has signed a two-year contract with the

Rio club, said at a press conference: "I am not leaving Barcelona for professional reasons, but because I think the moment has come for me to return to my country and join up with my house and friends."

"Nevertheless, I would like to express my gratitude to supporters, players, coaches and directors of Barcelona."

Barcelona are set to gain should Romario ever again play outside Brazil.

Romario would have to pay between 600 and 900 million pesetas (between \$4.5 and 7 million) to Barcelona, depending on which country and continent he moved to.

And if Flamengo wanted Barcelona to relinquish this right, they would have to pay

an extra 600 million pesetas, Gaspart added.

Romario said he was leaving with a clear mind and on good terms with Barcelona.

"I arrived at Barcelona at a very difficult time in my career and the players totally accepted me. I have tried to give my best," he added.

Cruyff, who on Friday extended his coaching contract till July 1997, has been unsettled by Romario this season.

He turned up more than three weeks late at the beginning of the season, and his form has been poor — far from the performances which earned him 30 goals in 1993/94.

And Romario officially announced his definite intention to leave Barcelona last

Thursday — just two days before their crucial clash with Real Madrid, which they went on to lose 5-0.

Romario, who described Cruyff as the best coach in the world, said he had "a year and a half of happiness at Barcelona."

"If I wish to return to Europe, I would hope the doors of Barcelona would open again for me."

The announcement of Romario's return was welcomed with delight in Rio, as cars motored round the city draped in Flamengo's red and black colours.

Further celebrations will include a trip across the city by the gifted striker in a type of "Popemobile," or open-topped vehicle.

## Panathinaikos, Napoli given stadium bans

GENEVA (R) — Italy's Napoli and Panathinaikos of Greece were ordered by UEFA Friday to play their next home European match in an empty stadium.

The control and disciplinary committee of European soccer's governing body reached their decision after studying incidents of crowd disorder involving both clubs earlier this season.

Napoli were punished because their supporters threw missiles, including bottles and stones, on to the pitch during their UEFA Cup tie against Eintracht Frankfurt on December 7.

Trouble also flared when Panathinaikos played club Brugge of Belgium in a European Cup Winners' Cup match in November. The Greek club's fans behaved in an unsportsmanlike fashion, according to the committee.

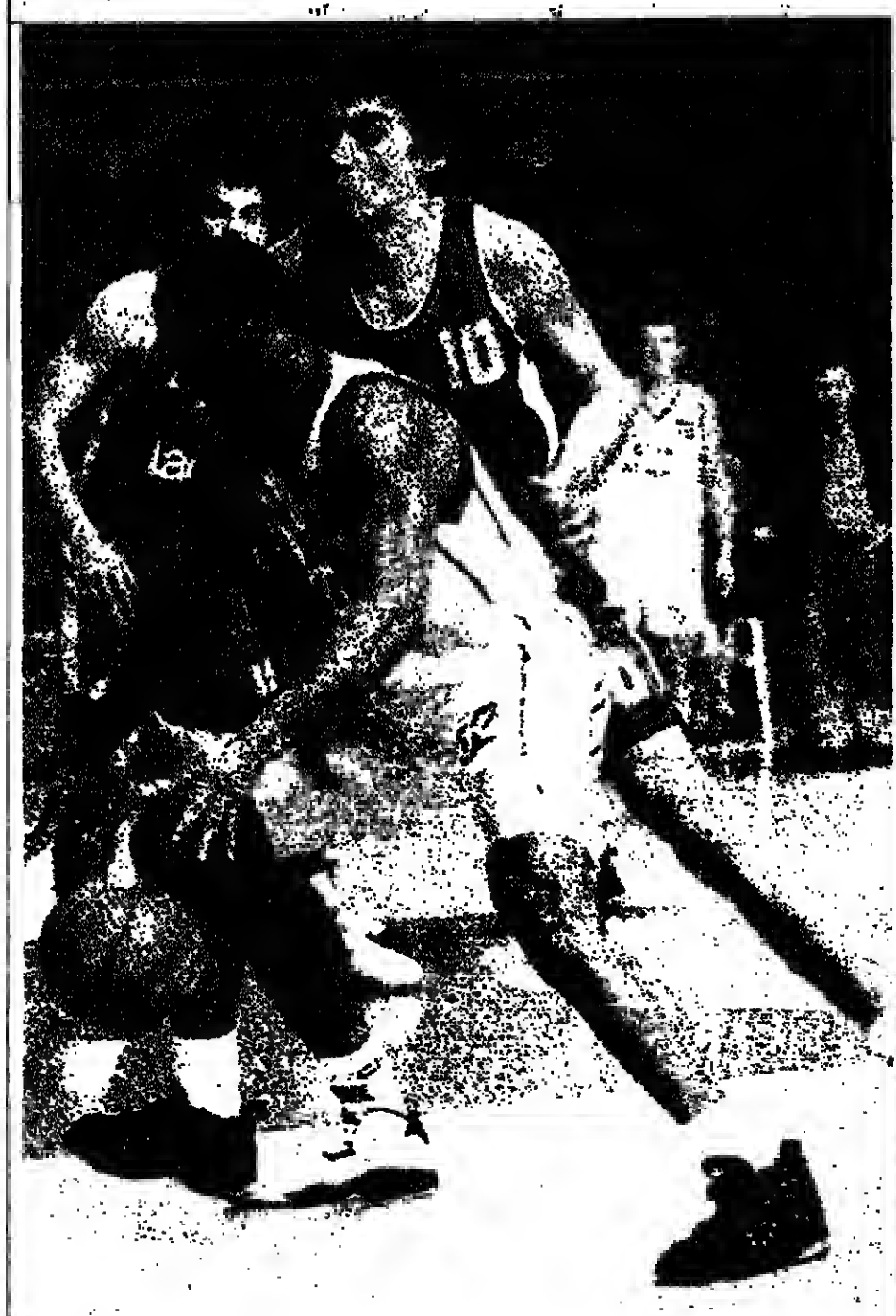
Panathinaikos were also fined 35,000 Swiss francs (\$22,750) and Brugge 40,000 francs (\$26,000) respectively because of on-field incidents involving their players.

One of them, Athanasios Kolitsidakis, was banned for three matches.

Macedonia were ordered to play their next two European Championship qualifying ties in an empty stadium as punishment for their fans setting off fireworks while celebrating victory over Cyprus last month. A Cypriot delegation official was injured.

Italian champions AC Milan were fined 20,000 francs (\$13,000) because their fans set off fireworks in the Champions' League tie against Ajax Amsterdam November 23.

Casino Salzburg coach Otto Baric was banned from the touchline from all UEFA club competition matches until the end of the year for his "undisciplined conduct" during the Champions' League tie against AC Milan December 7.



Efes Pilsen's Reggie cross #12 and Olympiakos' Panagiotis Fassoulas #10 in action during the European Champions basketball match between Greece's Olympiakos and Turkey's Efes Pilsen of Istanbul. Efes won 79-56 (AFP photo)

## Intercontinental Cup Denmark subdue Argentina to win title

RIYADH (AFP) — Denmark added the Intercontinental Cup to their European title after refusing to be subdued by intimidation in a 2-0 win over 10-man Argentina here Friday.

Michael Laudrup and Peter Rasmussen settled a match in which holders Argentina used unrelenting aggression rather than football finesse.

Defender Jose Chamot could have been sent off in the first half. But referee Ali Abou Jassim of the United Arab Emirates eventually sent him off in the dying seconds.

Roberto Ayala could also have been dismissed for another cynical foul as Argentina used bullying tactics — particularly against Brian Laudrup — throughout the showpiece final.

Michael Laudrup's early penalty enlivened the match after a clear foul on Jes Hogn. Hogn, looking dangerous on the right side of Argentina's area, was opened by Roberto Ayala.

Ayala had tried to pull back his right leg, but his reactions were too slow, and defender Hogn, playing his 11th international, was left sprawling.

Michael Laudrup went off injured after 27 minutes, surely pleasing Jorge Valdano, coach of Real Madrid who play an important match against Deportivo La Coruna at the weekend.

Almost immediately after the substitution, Argentina continued their over physical play as Alejandro Escudero hacked down Denmark's Brian Laudrup.

And 10 minutes later, Chamot was lucky to stay on the field as Brian Laudrup was yet again brought down, this time on the edge of the box. Just before the break, Ayala, already booked, was also saved from dismissal by the referee's lenience as he appeared to elbow Brian Laudrup in the face.

Peter Rasmussen missed with a header just after the break, but atoned for that with a 74th minute goal, set up by Brian Laudrup, to seal Denmark's 1.5-million-dollar winners' check.

Mexico overcome Nigeria

Meanwhile Mexico put their penalty nightmares behind them when they beat Nigeria 5-4 in a shoot-out for third place in the Intercontinental Cup.

Mexico had lost 4-2 on

penalties to Denmark in the semi-finals here this week and were knocked out of last year's World Cup finals on penalties by Bulgaria in the second round.

But with the scores level at 1-1 after 90 minutes — the Mexicans were soon celebrating a decisive save by flamboyant goalkeeper Jorge Campos against Emmanuel Amunike.

Nigeria's misery was compounded by having had a goal disallowed in injury time.

Earlier, Roman Ramirez put Mexico 4-0 up before Daniel Amokachi, who scored against Japan, banged in an equaliser for the Super Eagles.

Both sides had made a bright start, with Austin Okocha's long shot forcing an awkward save from Campos.

Minutes later, Carlos Hermosillo was just inches away from connecting at close range with Luis Garcia's looping cross from the left.

Ramirez finally broke the deadlock on 20 minutes, after a goalkeeping blunder by Peter Rufai.

The Nigerian's half-hearted punched clearance from a free kick found Ramirez unmarked inside the area and the waist-high shot came booming back just beyond Rufai's grasp.

However, barely 10 minutes later, a goalkeeping error at the other end brought Nigeria back into the match.

## Kenya government asked to mediate in athletes dispute

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya's track and field chief Isaiah Kiplagat called on the government Friday to mediate in a dispute which could lead to the banning of athletes who take part in unauthorised meetings.

The row erupted earlier this week when Kiplagat, chairman of the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA), threatened severe punishments for anyone taking part in three events sponsored by an Italian sports equipment company during the next four weeks.

He said then it was illegal for athletes and sponsors to organise any meetings without the authority of a national governing body and anyone taking part would be banned.

But on Friday Kiplagat called on the government to intervene in the affair.

"We request the ministry of culture and social services (which includes sports) to intervene and let us know their stand," Kiplagat said in a statement.

Middle distance stars Nixon Kiprotich, Sammy Koskei and Peter Rono and distance runner Moses Tanui are among local organisers of three events.

Athletes have said they would ignore the KAAA threat.

## NBA Results and Standings

WASHINGTON (AFP) — NBA results and standings after Friday's games:

New Jersey 110, Philadelphia 101  
Indiana 113, Washington 99  
Orlando 101, Atlanta 96  
Utah 95, Boston 93  
Minnesota 104, Detroit 92  
Sacramento 89, Chicago 79  
New York 91, Milwaukee 88  
Houston 103, San Antonio 100  
Seattle 108, L.A. Clippers 101  
L.A. Lakers 115, Golden State 104

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	28	7	.800	—
New York	24	12	.667	6½
Boston	18	20	.474	13½
New Jersey	14	23	.378	15
Miami	10	23	.303	17
Philadelphia	10	23	.303	17
Washington	7	26	.269	20

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	22	11	.667	—
Charlotte	21	12	.636	1
Indiana	20	13	.606	2
Chicago	18	16	.529	4½
Atlanta	15	20	.429	8
Milwaukee	11	23	.324	11½
Detroit	10	23	.303	11½

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	24	10	.706	—
Houston	22	10	.688	1
San Antonio	20	11	.645	2½
Denver	17	16	.515	6½
Dallas	15	16	.484	7½
Minnesota	7	26	.212	16½

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	26	8	.765	—
Seattle	23	9	.719	2
L.A. Lakers	21	11	.656	4
Sacramento	19	14	.576	6½
Portland	18	14	.563	7
Golden State	10	22	.313	15
L.A. Clippers	5	29	.147	21

## GOREN BRIDGE

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AND TAMMAM HUSSEIN  
Feature: Middle East

### THE EXPERT'S NIGHTMARE

Both vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ A J 10 3  
♥ A J 5  
♦ 8 5 2  
♣ 2 2

WEST  
♠ Q 5 5  
♥ 9 7 4 2  
♦ Q 8  
♣ A J 10 9 5

EAST  
♠ 7 4  
♥ 10 8 3  
♦ K J 10 4  
♣ 8 7 4 2

SOUTH  
♠ K 5 2  
♥ K Q 2  
♦ A 7 3  
♣ A K Q

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2NT Pass 3♦ Pass  
3♦ Pass 5♦ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.  
We have often heard people remark how easy the game of bridge

must be for the expert. Nothing could be further from the truth. To illustrate, consider this seemingly simple hand.

The bidding is typical of the optimism of many of today's players. North wasn't sure how to describe the holding once a spade "fit" was discovered, an elected-to-jump over game. As a result, South had to declare in the no-man's land of bridge—the five level.

When dummy came down it was obvious that limiting the diamond and spade losers to a total of two was all that was required. To the average player, that's no problem. The spade finesse is taken one way or the other and the outcome seals the fate of the contract.

The expert will always consider other lines. One way is to cash the ace of diamonds early, hoping someone with a doubtful king doesn't unblock. Then the ace and king of

spades and all the winners are cashed, and declarer hopes that a diamond or trump exit employs one of the defenders. This effort floats on a wing and a prayer.

Rather better is to win the opening lead and duck a diamond immediately. Declarer can win any return, cash the ace and king of trumps and all the outside winners, including the ace of diamonds, then exit with a trump and hope for a similar end-play. That works with any doubtful diamond in the hand with three trumps and is how the hand was played at the table.

The trouble is that neither of these lines succeeds when trumps are 4-1, and there are several other hurdles along the way. In the final analysis, we think the expert should try to guess the location of the queen of spades immediately, despite an inherent abhorrence to risk so much so soon on a finesse.

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<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b>
Jim Carrey in <b>THE MASK</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Julia Roberts/Nick Nolte in <b>I Love Trouble</b> Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 <b>The Lion King</b> Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00		<b>CONCORD "1"</b> Sylvester Stallone - Sharon Stone in <b>THE SPECIALIST</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> Harrison Ford - Whitney Houston — <b>THE BODYGUARD</b> Shows: 3, 5		<b>SUM'A</b> in the satirical play <b>HI CITIZEN</b> Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily from 8:30 p.m. Children's Play <b>The Ninja Turtles Show</b> Directed by Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 3:30 p.m.	<b>Presents</b> <b>Abu Awwad</b> In the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	<b>Presents:</b> The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 in English Sunday January 15, 1995



January 15

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# Algiers seen cool to opposition's proposal

**ALGIERS (Agencies)** — The offer made by Algeria's main opposition groups for talks with the military-backed government brings no new elements to the country's ongoing crisis, according to initial media reaction Saturday to the proposal.

The government by mid-day Saturday had not issued a statement in reaction to the proposal made, the previous day in Rome but the official news agency APS said the accord "overall reiterates the demands of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)."

In a statement described as a "national contract," the religious and secular Algerian opposition, including the FIS, called Friday for a national conference to be held as soon as possible to pave the way for free democratic elections.

The initiative was the first time opposition groups had agreed on a common stand to end the country's crisis triggered by the government's decision three years ago to cancel the second round of general elections which the FIS was poised to win.

In Washington, the State Department issued a statement saying that the accord was a "significant event" and was reached by groups representing some 80 per cent of Algerians who voted in the contested 1991 election.

It "appears to be a serious effort to contribute to the establishment of a process that could lead to a non-violent solution to the Algerian crisis," the department added.

But APS said the Rome declaration was similar to a government offer last year for talks with several FIS leaders.

Most newspapers here Saturday also appeared indifferent to the declaration saying it represented FIS demands and brought no new elements.

"The miracle expected in Rome never occurred," said the independent daily *Al Watan* in a front-page editorial. It added that the Rome meeting, sponsored by the Sant' Egidio Community, a Roman Catholic peace group, "would have brought nothing new towards restoring peace."

Another independent daily, *Liberte*, said the Rome resolution only reflected the FIS demands.

"It does not condemn terrorism and makes no allusion to a truce or an end to the bloodbath," it said.

It added that the resolution was more a "diktat" than an offer for future negotiations and said the government was unlikely to respond positively.

The daily *Le Matin* said the Rome declaration amounted to "endorsing fundamentalist terrorism" and marked a victory for the FIS which did not have to drop any of its demands and could now "negotiate from a position of power with the government."

"One is hardpressed to see what kind of parade the government can put on in answer to what has just happened in Rome, other than organise these suspicious demonstrations," the paper said, referring to various so-called "spontaneous" pro-government marches often organised throughout the country.

The daily *Al Umma*, close to the fundamentalists, said the accord reached in Rome represented an "important

step made by a strong opposition toward the government.

"The ball is now in the government's court," the paper said. "It is now necessary to extend a hand and try to use this year to resolve this crisis."

Suspected Muslim guerrillas abducted and killed an Algerian journalist working for the government-controlled newspaper *Al Shaab*, the paper said on Saturday.

Abdul Hamid Yahiaoui, 33, was seized on Thursday as he was leaving his home in the Algiers suburb of Baraki to meet a friend, *Al Shaab* said.

His body was found the next day with two bullets in the head about 100 metres from his home.

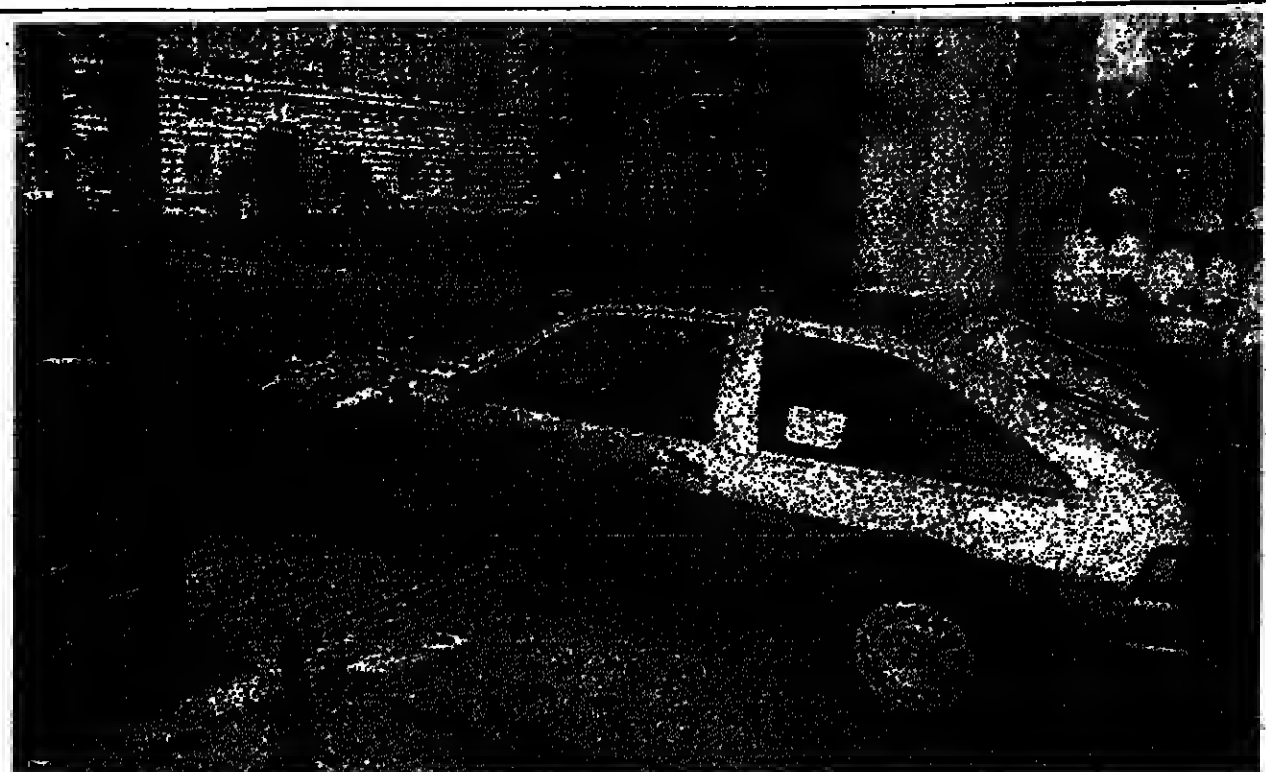
The newspaper said that the day before his abduction, Yahiaoui had discussed with colleagues the risk of being killed and had said he hoped "to die without suffering."

He was the third journalist to be killed in Algeria this month, and at least the 30th to die since June 1993, according to the French organisation *Reporters Sans Frontiers* (Reporters Without Borders).

The Paris-based press freedom watchdog group said it wrote to Algerian President Liamine Zeroul demanding that the government take adequate steps to protect journalists.

Algerian police have arrested the Algiers freelance correspondent of Italy's ANSA news agency and two of his children, ANSA said. It said Algerian reporter Mohammed Zaaf, 49, and his two children were arrested

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**CRASH AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE:** The scene early Friday outside the main gates of Buckingham Palace, the official residence of the British royal family, where a private vehicle crashed, bringing down one of the gates. The driver

of the Volkswagen Scirocco, a man in his 20s, was being interviewed by police and the cause of the collision is not immediately clear (AFP photo)

## Shiite areas of Bahrain tense

**NICOSIA (Agencies)** — Shiite Muslim areas of Bahrain were tense Saturday after security forces arrested 48 people in clashes at the funeral of a demonstrator, the country's exiled Islamic opposition said.

The 48 people were from the mainly Shiite village of Diraz, where Abdul Kader Mohsen Al Fadawi died Thursday in a clash with police, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said.

The IFLB, in a statement received in Cyprus, said police made the arrests "when they attacked the 3,000 people attending Fatawa's funeral."

Diplomats and witnesses said Thursday's clashes lasted all night in Diraz, Beni Jamarah, Abu Sibaa, Barbar, Jidhafs and Sanabes — Shiite communities northwest of Manama.

It was the worst violence since protests broke out in the emirate in mid-December after the arrest of a prominent Shiite cleric, Sheikh Ali Salman, on Dec. 5, the sources said.

The IFLB said Saturday that the trouble had spread to Manama as well as Noudrat, another Shiite community to the west.

The Ahrar liberal opposition movement based in London reported several wounded in clashes on Thursday and Friday. Tension was high in Shiite villages on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the emir, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, met Joseph Hoar and Richard Murphy, both members of the U.S. Foreign Relations Council, the official Bahraini news agency GNA said.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa and Interior Minister Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Demonstrators on Thursday called for the return of parliamentary democracy and for political reforms, as well as the release of prisoners, the witnesses and diplomats contacted by telephone said.

## Iraq says 5,000 dead in one province because of sanctions

**BAGHDAD (Agencies)** — More than 5,000 people died in a single province of Iraq last year because of a shortage of medicine and food caused by U.N. sanctions, the official news agency INA said Saturday.

It said 339 infants and 192 children under the age of five were among the 5,093 who died in the southern province of Dhi Qar.

In October, Health Minister Umid Mubarak said the situation was deteriorating by the day. The infant mortality rate had risen from 12 per 1,000 in 1989 to as many as 148 per 1,000 in 1994.

The U.N. Security Council on Thursday renewed for another two months the crippling embargo in force against Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

Food and medicine are exempted from the sanctions. But Baghdad says it does not have enough funds to import the country's needs because of the embargo on oil exports, its economic lifeline.

An Iraqi daily launched a scathing attack Saturday on the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, saying her

"lies" and U.S. "theft" were to blame for the renewal of the U.N. sanctions.

"Mad Albright is insolent and a liar," the official newspaper *Al Jumhuriya* said of Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who has charged that Iraq still had to return military and civilian equipment stolen during its invasion of Kuwait.

"Theft is the specialty of senior U.S. officials who proclaim in public that the Gulf region is a vital zone for their interests," the paper charged.

"It is the United States which robs the world today and resorts to aggression," *Al Jumhuriya* said.

After a closed door meeting, Security Council President Emilio Cardenas of Argentina said Thursday that "the council has completed the 23rd exam of sanctions against Iraq... there has been no change in the situation whatsoever."

"It has been determined that the situation has not changed in a way that would make it credible or possible to change the sanctions regime," Ambassador Albright said. "I think that what is

important in the council is that all members did agree that it's very important for Iraq to live up to the Security Council resolutions and the commitments it has made."

### British team to Iraq

A delegation of British industrialists is to visit Iraq in February despite the sanctions on trade with the country, the *Financial Times* reported on Friday.

The newspaper said the delegation, which would be in Iraq on Feb. 15, was being organised by a commercial lobby group called the Iraqi-British Interests Group, and that it would be going "with government backing."

However, a Department of Trade official said Britain had not relaxed the strict un-agreed rules governing business contacts with Iraq that have been in force since the Gulf war.

Companies can supply only "humanitarian items" to Iraq, such as medical supplies and basic foodstuffs, she said. Even then, the companies need a special licence from the government.

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## Sri Lankan talks hit snags

**JAFFNA (Agencies)** — The Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels failed to make headway on a political package, as peace talks appeared stalled after a third round Saturday in this northern rebel stronghold.

The leader of the government delegation, Kusumiri Balapatabendi, said the two sides failed to agree on a date to start substantive political negotiations but decided to extend the current cessation of hostilities.

Government negotiators also announced that Colombo had decided to lift 20 more items off a list of goods banned from northern areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

President Chandrika Kumaratunga partially lifted the economic embargo after leading her People's Alliance to victory at the August parliamentary elections in a bid to speed up the peace process.

In August the government removed almost half the items from a list of nearly 50 banned goods before opening

negotiations with the LTTE aimed at resolving the island's long-running ethnic conflict in the northeast.

Among the items that were removed at that time were all medicines, food, sanitary napkins and kerosene oil. The latest list of items to be exempted from the ban includes printing machines, toy guns and electrical wire.

However, the government was still undecided on whether to lift five other items including remote control devices, binoculars, telescopes and compasses, defence sources said. The embargo on fuel will remain.

After five hours of talks, Ms. Balapatabendi told reporters here that the discussions were "satisfactory but I would not say fully satisfactory. I expected other things to come out of the talks."

Shortly after returning to Colombo, Ms. Balapatabendi acknowledged that the latest round of talks had not produced the same amount of success as the previous two rounds but rejected suggestions that talks were deadlocked.

"It is not deadlocked. Things have not been finalised. There is acceptance on both sides on the issues," Ms. Balapatabendi told reporters in the Sri Lankan capital after arriving from Jaffna.

However, the negotiators agreed to continue their current truce, journalists said.

The journalists, who accompanied the government team to Jaffna, said government and rebel spokesmen had told them the two-week ceasefire would continue after Jan. 22, when it was due to come under review.

Government negotiators said they wanted to start peace talks next month.

Chief rebel negotiator Tamil Chelvan said talks could only commence when an important land route to the war-ravaged north had been opened and an economic embargo against the region lifted.

"Negotiations on the political package will begin once the land route is open and the economic embargo is lifted," said Mr. Chelvan, head of the political section LTTE.

Thursday, "does not reflect Israel's policy or any of the foreign ministry's positions."

But relations between Israel and Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to make peace with the Jewish state, have cooled considerably over the month.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's call for his country to prepare for war in the long term.

Egypt has threatened not to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel refuses to join when it comes up for renewal.

Mr. Mubarak also hosted a mini-Arab summit last month when he, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad urged Arab countries to slow the rush to set up ties with Israel.

## COLUMN

### Human chain saves paintings from fire

**PONTARLIER, France (AFP)** — Volunteers formed a human chain to save paintings, including some by 19th century master Gustave Courbet, from a fire in a museum, officials said Friday. Some 95 per cent of the works at the museum in Pontarlier, eastern France, were saved after volunteers came to the rescue Thursday evening, a town hall official said.

### Diana's friends ordered to give evidence

**LONDON (AFP)** — Lawyers are ordering friends of Princess Diana to give evidence in a law suit over secretly shot photographs of her exercising in a London gym, *Independent Television News (ITN)* said Friday. The pictures, allegedly taken without the princess' knowledge, were sold to *Mirror Group Newspapers* by the gym-owner Bryce Taylor.

They were subsequently published. It is his lawyers who are calling the Princess of Wales's friends as witnesses, said ITN. The princess, estranged wife of Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, heir to the British throne, is suing both the *Mirror Group* and the gym owner for invasion of privacy. The case, scheduled to start in a month's time is expected to hinge on whether or not she knew the pictures were being taken.

### Man committed after plunging car into palace gate

**LONDON (AFP)** — A 21-year-old student was committed for psychiatric observation after crashing his car into the outer gates of Queen Elizabeth II's London residence, Buckingham Palace, police said. The queen and other royal family members were away when the car rammed the huge, ornate metal gates at 4:30 a.m., sending one of them crashing down on its roof and rousing palace guards and staff. The driver was not identified, and a Scotland Yard spokesman said there appeared to have been no malice intended. The man was interviewed later in the day by psychiatrists at a nearby police station and was then "sectioned" to a psychiatric unit under the Mental Health Act, said the police spokesman. He said no criminal charges were lodged, adding: "This is not a normal thing that you would expect a sane person to do."

### Vatican sacks outspoken bishop

**VATICAN CITY (R)** — The Vatican said Friday it had removed a leading liberal French bishop from his post because of his unacceptable behaviour and his public stance on certain issues. The rare sanction was taken after Monsignor Jacques Gaillot, Bishop of Evreux in Normandy since 1982, and dubbed "the red cleric," upset the Roman Catholic hierarchy with his unorthodox views on issues ranging from AIDS to workers' rights. A Vatican statement said the 59-year-old bishop had aroused "anxiety and negative reactions" through his "behaviour, positions and frequent trips outside the diocese." It said Bishop Gaillot, who often aired his views in the media, refused to heed advice and warnings about his methods. "Unfortunately, the bishop did not show himself to be ideal to carry out a ministry of unity which is the first task of any bishop," the Vatican said.

Some senior French clerics said his sacking was inevitable because of long-standing disagreement with his hierarchy. The secretary of the bishop's conference, Jean-Michel Di Falco, said it would leave wounds that would take time to heal. "This is painful not only for himself but for a very large number of faithful who were very close to him," he said.

Pierre, the popular French priest who campaigns for the rights of the homeless. "Our society will increasingly need men like Jacques Gaillot: Straight, just and honest," Evreux's Communist Mayor Roland Plaisance said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yemeni president to visit France

**SANAA (R)** — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will start a three-day visit to France on Sunday as part of a European tour likely also to include the Netherlands and Germany, official sources said on Saturday. It will be Mr. Saleh's first visit to France since a two-month civil war last year in which his forces defeated southern separatists. During the war, Paris expressed support for Yemen's unity and Mr. Saleh "will express his country's appreciation and gratitude for the French stand," one source said. Mr. Saleh would also discuss economic cooperation with France. Yemeni businessmen and investors will accompany Mr. Saleh to explore prospects of cooperation both in the public and private sectors, the sources said.

### Israel would have hit back at Iraq

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israel would have hit back at Iraq if it had launched an unconventional attack on the Jewish state during the 1991 Gulf war, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday. "If we had been attacked with unconventional weapons, we would have been forced to react militarily," Mr. Shamir told Israel radio ahead of the fourth anniversary of the war to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. Two people died and hundreds were wounded when Iraq hit Israel with 39 Scud missiles in the January 17-Feb. 28 war, but Israel did not retaliate to avoid undermining the anti-Iraq coalition which included Arab states. "In the event of an unconventional Iraqi attack, our problem was to know when to act, without the agreement of the allies if necessary, which would have posed serious problems of coordination because we had to make sure we would not cause American casualties," Mr. Shamir said.

### Fundamentalists condemned at Turk's funeral

**ISTANBUL (R)** — Thousands of Turks condemned Islamic fundamentalists on Saturday at the funeral of a prominent Turkish writer, who died in a bomb explosion. Onat Kutlar, 59, died this week of wounds sustained from the explosion in a central Istanbul hotel on Dec. 30. An outlawed Islamist group, the Great Eastern Islamic Raiders — front (BIDA-C), claimed responsibility for the blast, which also killed a tour guide and wounded another man. Kutlar, a poet and film critic, wrote in *Cumhuriyet* daily, a leading advocate of secularism in predominantly Muslim Turkey. Some 5,000 mourners, who gathered in the garden of Cumhuriyet headquarters in Babiali district early in the morning, marched towards the Tesviye Mosque where a religious ceremony was held. The mourners shouted anti-militant slogans that included "Turkey will not be another Iran," "Turkey is secular and will remain secular" and "Mullahs to Iran." Kutlar's body was later buried in an Istanbul cemetery.

### Sudan leader fires two officials

**KHARTOUM (R)** — Sudanese leader Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir sacked on Saturday two southern Sudan officials for financial irregularities involving public funds. State Radio Omdurman said Thomas Kome, governor of unity state in southern Sudan, and his Finance Minister David Wal were dismissed over irregularities involving about 60 million Sudanese pounds (\$143,000). In a separate development, the radio reported Gen. Bashir swore in the heads of the internal and external security organs. It said Hassan Osman Dhahawi, a veteran security officer, had been appointed chief of internal security while Nafie Ali Nafie, a civilian state minister in the president's office, had been named head of the external security organ.

### Canadian minister to visit Mideast

**OTTAWA (AFP)** — Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet will visit Lebanon and Kuwait between Jan. 25 and 28 and will re-open Canada's embassy in Beirut, his office said Friday. Mr. Ouellet will meet with visiting delegations of Canadian businessmen during the trip hoping to boost trade and investment ties with the region. In a statement, Mr. Ouellet said: "The reopening of our Beirut embassy marks a turning point in our relations with Lebanon. It will enable Canada to strengthen its political and economic ties with this country and to play a more effective role in the reconstruction work currently under way there."

## Geagea back on trial without defence

**BEIRUT (AFP)** — Lebanese Christian warlord Samir Geagea, who faces a possible death sentence on murder charges, went back on trial here Saturday without a defence team.

The lawyers of his two co-defendants, Rafik Saadeh and Camille Karam, also walked out in protest. "The attitude of the court, which is contrary to the law, sets a dangerous precedent," they said in a statement.

Mr. Geagea's last two court-appointed lawyers dropped out during a hearing on Friday.

The former militia chief, whose trial opened Nov. 19, is charged with murdering rival Christian leader Dany Chamoun and his family in 1990, and with the bombing of a church near Beirut in February 1994 that claimed 11 lives.

His lawyers Mahmud Mukhaish and Nazih Shalal retired because Mr. Geagea told the court they "harm his interests" by requesting a postponement of the hearings on the Chamoun case.

Mr. Mukhaish argued that the Chamoun charges were based upon information obtained during the church inquiry, and that the case should be put off until a verdict is reached on the church bombing.

Mr. Geagea, head of the Lebanese Forces militia in the last five years of the 1975-1990 civil war, requested that the hearings continue.

## Lebanon Shiite leader issues 'Fatwa' on nuclear treaty

**BEIRUT (Agencies)** — The spiritual head of Lebanon's Shiite Muslims issued a "fatwa" (religious decree) barring Arab and Muslim states from signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) before Israel does so, the National News Agency said.

Sheikh Mohammad Mahdi Shamseddine announced the ban at Friday prayers, the agency said.

"I say to Iran and all the Arab and Muslim states that it is forbidden to sign the nuclear treaty until the enemy's nuclear weapon has been dismantled," Sheikh Shamseddine said.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty comes up for renewal in April but Arab countries spearheaded by Egypt are demanding that Israel sign if they are to sign it. Israel is

widely believed to hold nuclear weapons but refuses to subscribe to the treaty.

Sheikh Shamseddine said Arab and Muslim countries must also have a role in monitoring Israel's compliance to the treaty.

"The conditions for peace are dismantling the enemy and forming an international observation team that includes Arabs and Muslims, and after that Arab and Muslim states will sign the treaty and participate in the international monitoring system," he said.

"There will be no signature of this treaty before those conditions are met," he added.

Sheikh Shamseddine heads Lebanon's mainstream Shiite community, the country's biggest religious group. He is the only religious leader in

the country to have spoken out on the nuclear non-proliferation issue so far.

Lebanon has in the past signed the treaty but the government has not announced its stance on the renewal due in April.

### Egypt-Israel row

Egypt on Saturday condemned as "mentally retarded" an Israeli foreign ministry study which called for harsh measures against Cairo for its latest policies towards the Jewish state.

"It is mentally retarded to say Israel will punish Egypt," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters. "Thought of punishing Egypt smacks of naivety and a mentality that sends us back years."

The Israeli policy planning department study leaked to

the Haaretz newspaper said: "If Egypt continues its negative policies, Israel should take harsh retaliatory measures."

It recommended that Israel persuade the United States to reduce aid, suspend regular political meetings during which Cairo is briefed on the peace process and take negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of Egypt.

But Mr. Musa said talk of "punishment" was "unacceptable and unrealistic" and the Israeli officials should "reconsider these suggestions."

He considered the matter "closed" and pointed to remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Mr. Peres said the study, published in Haaretz on